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January 7, 1980

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THIS WEEK

Alberta Firms Receive Assistance Under Nutritive Processing Agreement 1

District Agriculturists' Diamond Jubilee - 1980. 2

New Calf Scours Vaccine On The Market 4

The Effect Of Cold On Livestock 5

1979 In Review. 7

Highlights From The Crop Protection And Pest Control Branch 8

Pesticide Applicators Training Program. 10

Weeds In The 1970's. 12

Alberta Dairy Convention And Annual Meeting 13

Ray Stueckle's Combine Clinics Scheduled For Vulcan And Fort Macleod 14

Calf Scour Seminar 15

Coming Agriculture Events 16

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AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

January 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FIRMS RECEIVE ASSISTANCE UNDER NUTRITIVE PROCESSING AGREEMENT

Two Alberta firms will receive assistance totalling $111,117 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement, which is designed to help firms to locate, expand or modernize their nutritive processing facilities in rural areas of the province. The assistance is shared equally by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture.

The Central Alberta Dairy Pool in Wetaskiwin will receive $59,018 to modernize and expand its evaporated milk processing facility. The expansion will include the provision of parking facilities, the construction of a milk receiving bay and the addition of a warehouse. Six new jobs are expected to be created and the estimated total capital to be employed is $327,876.

Mirror Packers Ltd. of Mirror will receive $52,099 to construct a 3,215 square-foot addition to its abattoir. The addition will enable the plant to consolidate all its meat processing in one location. At the present time the meat market and slaughterhouse are in separate locations. The new facility will mean an increase in wholesale processed meat and freezer meat sales. Five new jobs are expected to be created and the estimated total capital to be employed is $260,493.

- 30 -

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January 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS' DIAMOND JUBILEE - 1980

by John Calpas
Director of Alberta Agriculture's Extension Division

While resi 'ents of Alberta commemorate the province's 75th anniversary in 1980, Alberta Agriculture will, coincidentally, be marking the diamond jubilee of its first full-time district agriculturist appointment.

It was in 1920 that H. W. Scott, a former Olds Agricultural College instructor, was appointed the department's first district agriculturist and posted to Sedgewick. Additional offices and appointments subsequently followed at Lethbridge in 1921, Medicine Hat in 1922 and at Grande Prairie and Vegreville in 1924.

Over the 60-year history of formal extension services offered by the department, district agriculturists, as professional and scientific "change agents", have continued to be in the forefront of rural community leadership. Those years saw agriculture change from the frontier homestead of horsepower and drudgery to its present efficient, mechanized, near space-age food production system.

During 1980, the department, and the extension division in particular, will strive through various approaches and projects across the province to focus on some of the history and milestones of the district agriculturist's role. Some of the district agriculturists and farm leaders of those days were real 'characters',and equally as colorful as the events and undertakings of that period. While being ever mindful of present responsibilities and the future, we will take this occasion to reflect briefly on the events, cornerstones and lessons of the past.

Former and present district agriculturists and members of the agricultural community in general will be invited to help document from their personal experiences the 60-year extension mosaic. In some cases, innovative programs with humble district beginnings grew to become major department programs which are still in operation today. Rural youth and 4-H, agricultural societies, feeder associations, service boards, seed cleaning plants, soil conservation, warble control and many other programs all fit into this context.

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District Agriculturists' Diamond Jubilee - 1980 (cont'd)

The core extension team in 1980, throughout Alberta Agriculture's 62 district offices, is still essentially comprised of three key people. They are the district office steno-receptionist, serving a vital role, the district home economist and the district agriculturist. Through this district team backed by regional specialists, Alberta's farm families have convenient and ready access to virtually every department program and can tap the latest information in production and management.

Divisional and regional committees have been established to co-ordinate and spearhead "DA 60th Jubilee" projects during the year. They are responsible for involving all interested individuals. With their help, we hope to honor the pioneers of extension and capture significant aspects of early agricultural extension work.

Among the variety of events being planned is a major DA reunion which will be held in Edmonton on August 2nd to coincide with the 60th Agricultural Institute of Canada Conference. It is intended primarily as a social event for all former and present district agriculturists and other department colleagues. The program will feature agricultural and extension developments over the last 60 years. At the district level many offices will be holding "Jubilee Open House Day". Former DA's who served that district or area will be invited to return and share in the program and to renew acquaintances. Commemorative plaques are proposed for each office, acknowledging the names and years of service of the DA's who served the area.

One of our major objectives through out the jubilee year will be to raise the level of public awareness and to publicize and promote the wide range of Alberta Agriculture's programs and services that are available to rural Albertans.

The above article is the first in a series of articles that will be carried in Agri-News during 1980.

- 30 -

January 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW CALF SCOURS VACCINE ON THE MARKET

Canada's first safe, economical and proven effective vaccine against bacterial calf scours caused by E. coli is now on the market. It has passed all efficiency and safety tests and has been licensed by Agriculture Canada.

Manufactured by the Canadian firm, Connaught Laboratories, the new product has been registered as Vicogen, a name chosen to recognize its development by the team efforts of the Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Connaught. When used in conjunction with good herd management, Vicogen will be a valuable aid in the prevention of bacterial calf scours.

Estimates indicate that it will save Canadian farmers up to $40 million annually. Calf losses of up to 36 per cent are not uncommon in infected herds.

Vicogen is administered in two doses to pregnant cows and heifers at six and three week intervals before they calve. It is available through local veterinarians, and the retail price is about $2.50 per dose or $5 per animal.

- 30 -

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January 7, 1980

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THE EFFECT OF COLD ON LIVESTOCK

It is a well known fact that cold-stressed livestock do not perform as well as those in a comfortable environment, but just how does the cold affect animals?

In an attempt to shed further light on this question, scientists from the University of Alberta's Animal Science Department conducted two experiments on sheep last winter. One was designed to explore the short-term losses in liveweight that occur in animals when they are first exposed to the cold and to determine the part of the body in which the weight is lost.

This experiment showed that an animal substantially reduces its water intake upon being exposed to the cold and that there is a subsequent reduction in fluids in the body, particularly in the rumen. The experiment also showed that fluid losses were more pronounced in sheep on restricted feed than in those whose feed was unrestricted, and that the losses were more pronounced when the animals were first exposed to the cold than when they had been exposed to it for a week or longer.

When the animals were re-exposed to a warm environment, the lost body fluids were apparently regained rapidly and a considerable increase in liveweight was observed in the sheep that were fed free choice.

"These results", says Dr. B. A. Young of the Department of Animal Science, "tend to confirm that rapid changes in the liveweight of animals can occur as a result of a variation in the thermal environment, and that they are mainly due to losses or gains in body fluids".

Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle specialist, Ross Gould, believes that these experimental results have an important implication for farmers who sell their livestock on a liveweight basis in cold weather. He says "since a farmer who sells animals that are cold-stressed may have less product to sell, it may not be a good idea to sell cattle after a severe storm".

The other experiment carried out at the university last winter concerned the effect of cold, high moisture feed on sheep. It showed that cold high moisture feeds, such as silage

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The Effect of Cold on Livestock (cont'd)

which was eaten while frozen, and cold water can cause considerable cooling in an animal's rumen. This cooling was found in some cases to cause the animal's surface body temperature to drop by as much as 10°C and its interior body temperature to drop by 1° C. Although consumption of dry feed such as hay or grain after the rumen had been cooled reduced the total heat loss, it did not completely stop it.

Dr. Young points out that these results imply that animals that eat a high moisture feed at a low temperature will respond metabolically to the additional source of cooling, but not sufficiently to prevent a decline in their body heat. "It remains to be seen", he says, "whether repeated cooling of this nature would cause a permanent rise in the metabolic rate to redress this imbalance in the heat economy of animals cooled by ingesting cold, high moisture feeds".

- 30 -

CORRECTION:

The telephone number for Grande Prairie in the last paragraph of the article entitled "Alberta Meat Inspection" (December 31 issue of Agri-News) should be 539-2280; NOT 539-2121 as stated.

January 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1979 IN REVIEW

According to Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch, 1979 turned out to be a better year in many ways than had been expected. After two years of poor harvesting conditions, most Alberta farmers were able to complete their harvest and fall field work without interruption, and all crop grades were better than in previous years.

Except for rapeseed, yields were generally better than expected. In southern areas, very dry conditions raised fears of crop failures, but excellent soil moisture reserves carried the crops through to maturity and yields were surprisingly good. In the northern areas, where a late spring is always a concern because of the shorter growing season, warm weather, timely rains and the absence of early frosts allowed the cereal crops to reach maturity and to produce excellent yields. Rapeseed yields, on the other hand, were disappointing because of weather and insect and disease problems. Irrigated crops did very well although some a as received substantial hail damage. Forage seed producers also indicated satisfactory returns from their crops.

The major concern as we go into the new year is the lack of soil moisture. Central and southern regions are most seriously affected with reports of little or no moisture to a depth of several feet. Substantial precipitation will be needed during the winter and spring to replenish the ground water table.

Livestock producers also had a good year in 1979. Cattle generally fared well despite early season fears of pasture shortages, and feed supplies should be adequate for the winter feeding period. Prices for livestock and livestock products were generally good, but hog prices dropped somewhat from the previous year. However, the price decline was not as great as some people had expected.

- 30 -

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January 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CROP PROTECTION AND PEST CONTROL BRANCH

Flea beetles and bertha armyworms were the most serious pests in Alberta crops in 1979.

According to Michael Dolinski, entomologist and pest control specialist with Alberta Agriculture's crop protection and pest control branch, flea beetles will continue to be a problem in the future because biological control has a minimal effect on the population. He says "If we have a smaller rape acreage in 1980, the flea beetles may move into the remaining fields and cause heavier than normal damage".

Although bertha armyworms have not been a problem since 1974, approximately 3,000 acres of rape crops north of Vulcan were sprayed for these insects last year. Field surveys show that there could be problems this year, especially south of Highway # 1.

The Athabasca River was treated twice with methoxychlor in 1979 to control black flies. Although the treatments were successful, the late fall population built up to an outbreak proportion. Field tests showed that a light misting of cattle with Ectiban, an unregistered insecticide, provides up to 10 days of protection against black flies. Work on livestock protection and river treatment is to be continued this year.

Animal Pests

Cliff Barrett, animal pest control specialist, reports that the 1979 rat control program was very successful. Only in the buffer zone inside the Alberta-Saskatchewan border are there any rat problems and these are mainly confined to the County of Vermilion River.

November 1979 marked the second year that no rabid skunks were reported in Alberta. This was despite the fact that about 1,600 rabid animals were diagnosed in Canada and there was a high incidence of rabid skunks in Saskatchewan and Montana, U. S. A.

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Highlights From The Crop Protection And Pest Control Branch (cont'd)

Although coyote numbers are supposed to be dwindling, farmers are still suffering damage, especially to their sheep. A farmer in the Cardston area, for example, is reported to have lost $6,000 worth of sheep. Twenty-one coyotes were removed from his premises. High coyote numbers have been reported in several areas of the province, including the Fort Assiniboine area where the animals have started to develop mange.

Plant Diseases

Dr. Jack Horricks, plant pathologist, reports that Alberta potato growers kept the incidence of bacterial ring rot in table potatoes to a very low level for the second consecutive year in 1979. He says the disease was not found in the seed of any of the province's seed potato growers during this period.

Although a severe outbreak of the virulent strain of black leg occurred in rape crops in Saskatchewan last year, it was not found in Alberta. The closest source of the disease was only 45 miles from the Alberta border.

Neither Dutch elm disease nor its beetle vectors have been found in Alberta, despite its presence in Manitoba and Montana.

- 30 -

January 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PESTICIDE APPLICATORS TRAINING PROGRAM

Alberta's 13th annual Pesticide Applicators Training Program, the only one of its kind in Canada, will be held at Olds College from February 4 to 8.

Participants will receive the necessary training for a license to apply pesticides in rural areas; to use pesticides to control or prevent the growth of vegetation along power lines, rights-of-way, etc.; to apply pesticides from an aircraft and to apply pesticides in urban or non-agricultural areas. The program is also designed to give public agency or government employees the necessary training to obtain a licence to use pesticides.

The following topics are on the course agenda: pesticide legislation, pesticide chemistry, toxicity and safe procedures; safety and safety equipment; botany; mode of action of herbicides; general entomology; pesticide formulations; plant diseases and their control; effects of pesticides on fish and wildlife; weed identification; first aid; sprayer calibration; insect pests and their control and vertebrate pest control.

The course does not provide training for a licence to apply seed treatment chemicals; to apply pesticides in buildings; to apply pesticides to livestock, stored grain or greenhouse plants or to control aquatic vegetation. Anyone who would like training for one of these licences should contact the pesticide chemicals branch, pollution control division, Alberta Environment, Oxbridge Place, 9820 – 106 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C8.

People who are planning to participate in the Pesticide Applicator's Training Program, but who have only a limited amount of experience with pesticides, may want to prepare themselves for it by taking a home study course. Lakeland College at Vermilion offers such a course by correspondence.

The Pesticide Applicators Trining Program costs $7 a day which includes extensive mimeographed notes. No accommodation will be available in the Olds College residence, but noon lunch will be available. Bus transportation to and from the hotel/motel will be provided at no cost from February 5 to 8.

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Communications Division

Pesticide Applicators Training Program (cont'd)

Since enrollment is limited, anyone who would like to take all or part of the course should register with Olds College by January 14. No registration will take place at the course. More detailed information can be obtained from the Division of Continuing Education, Olds College, Olds, T0M 1P0 (Telephone (403) 556-8322).

- 30 -

January 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEEDS IN THE 1970's

by Stan Powers, Alberta Agriculture

Weeds increased in Alberta during the 1970's despite all the technological advances that took place during this decade.

Canada thistle is now the number one perennial weed in the province, and wild oats continue to plague many farmers, despite an aggressive and expensive promotional and control program during the first half of the 1970's. Stork's bill, first discovered in the early 1970's, is spreading, and scentless chamomile, which was confined to a relatively few districts, is now quite widespread. Nodding thistle, unknown in Alberta until 1978, has a foothold in the Calgary area. Diffused and spotted knapweed, not present in the 1960's, are now a distinct threat to crops in southern Alberta.

The list could go on and on. Why? Is it because we are directing all our efforts towards controlling weeds and paying insufficient attention to their prevention? Every era since agriculture was first practised has had the means and the tools to control weeds. A number of new tools were added in the 1970's and yet there is little evidence of ground gained. This is not the case everywhere. In some areas in Europe, the main problem is volunteer growth from the previous crop; not weeds. The weeds have been conquered by using all the tools of the trade, both new and old. Are we in North America being carried away by new tools to the point where we are discarding all the old ones - the ones that served agriculture well in the decades gone by?

- 30 -

January 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA DAIRY CONVENTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

Remember to register for the Alberta Dairy Convention by January 21 if you want to be allotted a ticket that is eligible for all the prize draws, including the one for two return airfares to Hawaii.

"Promotion Pays" is the theme of this year's convention, which will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Alberta Dairymen's Association at the Macdonald Hotel in Edmonton on February 4, 5 and 6.

The agenda will include such topics as "Promotion or Perish" by Dr. Bronson Lane, secretary, American Cultured Dairy Products in Florida; "The Alberta Dairymen's Promotion Program" by R. Jespersen, chairman of the Alberta Dairymen's Promotion Committee; "Nutrition and Management of Replacement Heifers by Dr. J. Crowley, extension dairyman, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, U.S.A. and "Incentive Program for Quality Milk" by F. R. Hutchins, dairy commissioner/director, Alberta Agriculture.

There will also be producer and processor section meetings, the presentation of awards, the presentation of life memberships, a banquet, the dairymen's ball and a special ladies' program.

Further details on the convention and annual meeting registration can be obtained from Paul Paquin, c/o Palm Dairies Ltd., P.O. Box 127, Edmonton, T5J 2H9.

- 30 -

January 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAY STUECKLE'S COMBINE CLINICS SCHEDULED FOR VULCAN AND FORT MACLEOD

Ray Stueckle, author of the book "Combine Setting for Better Harvesting", will be holding a combine clinic at the Legion Hall in Vulcan on January 21 and at the Auction Market in Fort Macleod on January 23. Both clinics will start at 9:30 a.m. and finish at 4:30 p.m.

In the past two years Mr. Stueckle has put on combine clinics in Saskatchewan and at Foremost, Taber, Milk River and Three Hills in Alberta that were attended by enthusiastic farmers, ranging in number from 250 to 500. He has had 20 years of dryland farming in Washington and Idaho in the United States and has spent 15 years working in the field with many different combine models.

His clinics, which are illustrated with colored slides, cover such topics as: How to Make the Header Feed Evenly; How to Adjust a Combine to Correct Walker Loss; How to Balance the Air on the Sieves and How to Reduce the Number of Damaged Kernels and Unthreshed Heads. His book will be available at the clinics.

The agricultural service boards and district agriculturists at Vulcan, Cardston, Pincher Creek and Claresholm joined forces to bring Mr. Stueckle to Vulcan and Fort Macleod.

- 30 -

January 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALF SCOUR SEMINAR

Dr. S. D. Acres, a research scientist at the Veterinary Infectious Diseases Organization in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, will discuss the calf scour vaccine that has just been released and calf scour prevention in general at a calf management seminar, scheduled to take place in the Memorial Hall in Stettler on January 17. Registration will start at 9:30 a.m.

Another speaker, Dr. Frank Baker, extension veterinarian with Alberta Agriculture, will discuss calving problems and the influence that time of feeding has on time of calving.

Dwight Karren, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock supervisor at Red Deer, will outline the relationship that exists between cow nutrition and calf scours.

The agenda also calls for a panel discussion on calf scour management experiences. Members of the panel will include Dr. Jim Mailer of the Stettler veterinary clinic and a number of local cattlemen.

The cost of the seminar is only $10 and this includes lunch. Preregistration would be greatly appreciated to facilitate catering arrangements. Cheques should be made out to the Agricultural Education Trust Account and sent to Extension Office, Box 600, Stettler, T0C 2L0.

- 30 -

COMING AGRICULTURE EVENTS

1980

Unifarm Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 7 - 11

Alberta Pork Seminar
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . January 16 - 18

Agricultural Marketing Forum (Provincial)
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . January 21 - 23

Alberta Vegetable Growers Marketing Board - Annual Convention
Heritage Motor Hotel
Taber, Alberta . . . . . January 25

Alberta Rapeseed Growers Association - Annual Convention
Edmonton Plaza Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 31 - February 1

Western Stock Growers Association
Chateau Lacombe
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . January 31 - February 2

Alberta Dairymen's Association - Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . February 4 - 6

Western Fertilizer and Chemical Dealers Association
Holiday Inn
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . February 5 - 7

Annual Agricultural Service Board Conference
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . February 11 - 13

Canadian Federation of Agriculture - Annual Meeting
Winnipeg, Manitoba. . . . . February 12 - 14

Alberta Poultry Industry Conference
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge, Alberta. . . . . February 25 - 27

Alberta Egg and Fowl Marketing Board - Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . February 27

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Coming Agriculture Events (cont'd)

Alberta Turkey Growers Marketing Board - Annual Meeting
Lethbridge Lodge
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . February 27

Western Barley Growers Association - 1980 Convention
Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . February 28 & 29

Alberta Society of Agriculture Technologists - Annual Meeting
The Highlander Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . March 1

Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit - Peace River Regional Seminar
Grande Prairie Motor Inn
Grande Prairie, Alberta . . . . . March 3 - 5

Agriculture - Expo 1980
Lethbridge Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . March 5 - 8

Alberta Polled Hereford Club - 25th Anniversary Show and Sale
Alberta Hereford Centre
Innisfail, Alberta . . . . . March 15

Accent 1980 - Market Prospects for Grains and Oilseeds
Convention Centre
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . March 17 & 18

Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit - Seminar
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . March 21 - 24

Northlands Stock Show & Sale
Edmonton Northlands Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . March 23 - 29

Lilydale Co-Operative Ltd. - Annual Meeting
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . March 25

Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit - General Session
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta . . . . . March 25 28

Alberta Home Economics Association Conference
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . April 24 - 26

Coming Agriculture Events (cont'd)

Alberta Women's Institutes Convention
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . June 9 - 12

Canadian Hereford Association - Annual Meeting
Niagara Falls, Ontario . . . . . June 27 & 28

Calgary Stampede
Calgary Exhibition Grounds
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . July 4 - 13

Provincial Agriculture Service Board - Tour
Leduc County . . . . . July 8 - 11

Canadian Galloway Association - Annual Meeting & Stock Show
Claresholm Agri-Plex
Claresholm, Alberta . . . . . July 12 & 13

Canadian Home Economics Association Conference
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . July 14 - 17

1980 Klondike Days
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 16 - 26

Alberta Women's Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . July 21 - 25

Canadian Junior Hereford Association - National Red Rose Bonanza Show
Red Deer Exhibition
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . July 27 - 29

1980 Klondike Days
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July

Alberta District Agriculturists Diamond Jubilee Reunion
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . August 2

Agricultural Institute of Canada 1980 - Annual Meeting
Jubilee Auditorium and University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . August 3 - 6

Canadian Society of Extension - Annual Conference
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . August 3 - 7

Northland's FarmFair '80
Northland Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 2 - 14

Coming Agriculture Events (cont'd)

Alberta Beekeepers Association - Annual Convention
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . November 5 - 7

Alberta Polled Hereford Club - Annual Meeting
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . December 7

Alberta Polled Hereford Club - All-Female Show & Sale
Alberta Hereford Centre
Innisfail, Alberta . . . . . December 13

1981

Alberta Dairymen's Association - Annual Convention
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . February 2 - 4

Alberta Polled Hereford - Annual Show & Sale
Alberta Hereford Centre
Innisfail, Alberta . . . . . March 14

AL 1 69 1

AGRI-NEWS

January 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Early Work On Grey Wooded Soils 1

An Alfalfa And A Peat Moss Plant Receive Assistance. 4

Forage Seed Market Outlook. 5

White Muscle Disease Of Lambs 7

How Much To Pay For Feeder Cattle? 10

A New Decade In Soils 12

Two-Day Tree Pruning Courses 13

Swine Herd Health Veterinarian Appointed 14

District Home Economist Appointments. 15

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EARLY WORK ON GREY WOODED SOILS

by C. E. Yauch
former District Agriculturist with Alberta Agriculture at Lethbridge and High River



Forage trial (red clover and timothy mixture) at Breton in the late 1930's. George Delong (left) standing behind the check plot and Charlie Yauch (right) standing behind a plot fertilized with ammonium sulphate containing 25 per cent sulphur.

It was in the middle of the 1930's that James Murray, while principal of the Olds School of Agriculture (OSA) became aware of the plight of farmers in the Sundre district. They were trying to grow crops on very low fertility grey wooded soils, and several of them had come into the district from the dried-out areas of southeastern Alberta.

At that time I was instructing in sciences and soils at OSA during the winter and was assigned to various duties during the summer months or was unemployed for a month or two as was common in those years. I had worked in the soils laboratory at the University of

- (cont'd) -

Early Work on Grey Wooded Soils (cont'd)

Alberta during my student days and was somewhat familiar with the work being done at Breton on grey wooded soils. It was through this combination of circumstances that I was given the opportunity for five or six summers to investigate, in a limited way, the nature of these soils and to demonstrate what might be done to improve their productiveness.

In those years most of the farms around Sundre would be classed as small mixed farms. The older established farms seemed to depend mostly on cattle, which managed to survive on bush and swamp pasture. As land clearing became more common, farmers were disappointed to learn that the grey wooded soil had little productive capacity. If memory serves me correctly, hay yields were only a few hundred pounds per acre. Wheat and barley yielded perhaps eight and 15 bushels per acre respectively. Not only were crop yields low, but the quality was also poor.

Some five or six farmers readily agreed to co-operate with us in setting up fertilizer demonstration plots and crop rotations based along the lines of the work being done at Breton. We were perhaps optimistic in hoping to gain much information or to demonstrate the advantages of rotations, but within a few years encouraging results began to emerge.

Emphasis was first placed on the improvement of forage crops for both yield and quality. It was easy to demonstrate that legume-grass mixtures were much better than the straight timothy or brome that was commonly grown. The legumes both alone and in mixtures responded dramatically to all chemicals containing sulphur. The commonly manufactured fertilizers that contained much sulphur as well as elemental sulphur and gypsum gave marked responses. Forage crop yields were increased three or four times with moderate applications of sulphur or sulphur containing compounds. Gypsum was probably the cheapest source of sulphur, but satisfactory supplies were not available.

Another project that was carried out along with the fertilizer and crop improvement tests involved cereal variety test plots for the University of Alberta. It was interesting to discover how some of the varieties produced when grown on poor soils without the benefit of any kind of

Early Work on Grey Wooded Soils (cont'd)

fertilizer. Both yields and protein quantity and quality were very low. A. G. McCalla of the University of Alberta's Plant Science Department, who did the analyses of the project, gave me the dubious credit of having grown barley with the lowest protein content of any in the province at that time. It seems that the total protein was about 8 per cent. One can imagine the problems that the small farmers faced when feeding grains of such low quality for milk, egg and meat production.

Although some authorities disagreed, it seemed quite evident that sulphur played a key role in soil improvement in the Sundre district. The owners of small mixed farms began using better, higher yielding forage crops, which, in turn, improved the soil for better cereal crop production. It could be argued that such soils should not have been used for crop production. One Norwegian farmer south of Sundre was quite proud of the large barn that he had constructed from native lumber. The loft was more than adequate for the amount of hay he had been able to grow. It gave us much satisfaction to drive into his yard one late summer's day and hear him report that the loft was finally full and that there were a couple of stacks of hay in the yard as well.

Our work at Sundre did not come directly under the extension service in those years. Field meetings were held at the demonstration sites each year and these were well attended. The experiments were not statistically or computer analyzed, but the work contributed considerably to the betterment of farming and living conditions, which is part of the purpose of the extension service.

January 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN ALFALFA AND A PEAT MOSS PLANT RECEIVE ASSISTANCE

Hills Alfalfa Processors Ltd. of Rolling Hills, an alfalfa cubing plant, and Viando Manufacturing Ltd. of Entwistle, a peat moss manufacturing plant, will receive assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement.

Hills Alfalfa Processors Ltd., a partnership of Tirol Dehydraters Ltd. and local farmer/producers, will receive $293,570 to construct a 30,000 ton per year cubing alfalfa plant. It is being built to meet projected growth in both domestic and export markets. Seventeen jobs are expected to be created during the summer months and 10 to 14 during the winter months. The estimated total capital to be employed is $1,340,504.

Viando Manufacturing Ltd. will receive $69,614 to produce bags of peat moss mixed with nutrients. The bags are designed in such a way that flowers and vegetables can be planted directly into them. Three full-time and three part-time jobs are expected to be created. The estimated capital to be employed is $340,977.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement is designed to help firms which locate, expand or modernize their nutritive processing facilities in rural Alberta. Assistance is shared equally by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

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January 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE SEED MARKET OUTLOOK

Prospects for 1980 appear reasonably good for Alberta forage seed producers, despite the more competitive returns offered by cereal and oilseed crops. The advantages of crop rotations and premiums being paid for pedigreed seed are expected to help maintain a solid production base for the province's forage seed industry.

Bob Prather, special crops analyst with Alberta Agriculture, expects markets and prices for grass seeds, except timothy, to continue strong this year. He forecasts a further price strengthening for creeping red fescue in light of significantly reduced Canadian supplies and favorable early season exports to the United States. "The relative price advantage of Canadian fescue over Kentucky bluegrass in the American market for turf grasses will probably mean that as much Canadian fescue as possible will be used in their lawn seed mixtures", he says. The Canadian dollar exchange rate continues to be favorable in the marketing of Canadian fescue.

Canadian producer prices should average from 60¢ to 65¢ a pound for common seed and from 70¢ to 75¢ a pound for pedigreed seed during the current crop year. Average export values will probably average in the 70¢ to 80¢ a pound range.

Indications are that the current price situation will lead to an increase in the creeping red fescue acreage in 1980.

Although timothy seed exports to Europe are expected to increase in 1980, weaker prices appear to be in order for the balance of the 1979-80 crop year. Mr. Prather believes there is likely to be a significant build-up in dealer and/or farm stocks which will be carried forward into the 1980-81 crop year.

Prospects in the United States, Canada's second major market for timothy, are not promising for Canadian exports. Reports show a 9 per cent higher crop and a higher dealer and farm carryover compared with those of the previous crop year. U.S. imports of timothy from Canada were down by more than 40 per cent in the July through October period.

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Forage Seed Market Outlook (cont'd)

Preliminary estimates place the 1979 Canadian bromegrass crop below the 1978 level. With dealer carryover stocks also down, total 1979-80 crop year supplies are put at only 2.5 million pounds. Mr. Prather reports that producer prices by the end of October were between 40¢ and 44¢ a pound for common seed on a net seed basis and between 55¢ and 60¢ a pound for pedigreed seed, reflecting the tightening supply situation. Although a limited domestic demand and limited export markets will prevent prices from going much higher, average producer prices for the balance of the 1979-80 crop year are expected to be well above those of the past two years.

According to Mr. Prather, the market for clovers continues to experience burdensome supplies and low prices. Markets for single cut red clover, sweet clover and alsike clover continue soft, and a reduction in the next crop year's production will be necessary to bring supplies and prices of these clovers to a more desirable level.

Canadian alfalfa prices have shown some signs of strength during the present crop year. Carryover stocks and 1979 production put available Canadian supplies at 5.7 million pounds. At this level, imports of 3 to 4 million pounds will be needed to meet the expected demand, and prices should hold steady. However, a good U. S. crop could have a dampening effect between now and next spring.

"As in most years", says Mr. Prather, "markets in Europe and the United States will have an impact on the movement and pricing of Canadian forage seeds. High interest rates, formal and informal trade barriers, energy prices and growers' marketing plans will all influence the Canadian market. However, the weak Canadian dollar will continue to have a positive effect on prices in this country".

- 30 -

January 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHITE MUSCLE DISEASE OF LAMBS

by C. Schipper, D. V. M.
Alberta Agriculture's Animal Health Division

White muscle disease of lambs, which tends to occur among rapidly-growing lambs of a few days to several months of age, is dreaded by some Alberta sheep producers.

Also referred to as stiff lamb disease, and, more correctly, as nutritional muscular dystrophy (NMD), the disease can take several forms. In one, the lambs may be found dead without having shown any signs of illness or they may become very depressed and be found lying on their sides. Such animals are unable to sit up, even with assistance. Another sign may be a rapid, irregular heart beat. Almost all lambs with the above signs die within six to 12 hours after the onset of the disease because of irreversible heart damage.

Another form of NMD is "stiff lamb disease". Lambs which have this form usually have trouble getting up, tremble a lot, appear weak and are reluctant to walk. However, they are able to sit up and will nurse quite readily when held up to the ewe. Since some of them show signs of labored breathing, their illness could easily be incorrectly diagnosed as pneumonia. The stiffness and trembling is caused by muscle injury and the labored breathing is caused by damage to the diaphragm muscle.

This second form of NMD tends to respond remarkably well to one injection of a commercial selenium-vitamin E solution. Even severely affected lambs often show improvement in several days and are usually able to stand and walk without assistance within a week. Information on selenium-vitamin E medication and instructions on how to use it can be obtained from a veterinarian.

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White Muscle Disease Of Lambs (cont'd)

The name nutritional muscular dystrophy suggests that the disease is basically caused by inadequate nutrition. More specifically, pregnant ewes fed forage and grain that does not contain enough selenium are more likely to give birth to NMD lambs than other ewes. Selenium levels of less than 100 parts per billion in the feed are generally considered to be inadequate.

There are several soil-related factors that seem to influence the selenium level in animal feeds. They include such things as low selenium availability and a high level of sulphur as well as soil type, degree of soil acidity and moisture. The grey wooded soils are often more deficient in selenium than other soils.

Factors that may predispose lambs to NMD include unaccustomed exercise, infectious diseases, transportation stress and an abrupt change in the weather. All these may help to precipitate an outbreak of NMD in young lambs.

Diagnosis of the "stiff lamb" form of the disease is not as difficult as other forms because the signs are fairly easy to recongize. It is more difficult to determine why lambs that are a few days old are too weak to survive or why apparently healthy lambs die without warning. Such conditions as poor ewe nutrition, congential weakness, shortage of milk, injuries, chilling and infectious diseases also cause deaths among newborn lambs. In addition, young, healthy, fast-growing lambs of a few days old or older are frequently killed by enterotoxemia, acute pneumonia and intestinal diseases. Hence, a veterinarian should be consulted in all cases of unusually high lamb losses.

Although treatment against most forms of NMD is effective, prevention is far more desirable and profitable. Farmers who grow cereal and grass crops in areas where this disease is likely to occur should try to have their feed analyzed for selenium content. The Alberta Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory in Edmonton is one facility that does these tests. District agriculturists have specific information on how to take a proper feed sample and how to submit it for analysis.

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White Muscle Disease Of Lambs (cont'd)

When a flock is being fed a selenium deficient ration, extra selenium should be provided on a year-round basis in the feed, salt or mineral mix. An alternative method of supplementing selenium is to inject all pregnant ewes with selenium four weeks before they are due to lamb and at monthly intervals during their lactation period. Some of the selenium will be passed on to the lambs via the placenta and udder.

An injection, preferably under the skin, of selenium-vitamin E given to all lambs of three to four days of age has also proved helpful in controlling outbreaks of NMD in sheep flocks.

Since selenium is a toxic substance, label directions must be read and carefully followed. Both ewes and lambs could be poisoned with an overdose of selenium given via feed supplements or injections because the margin of safety is narrow.

- 30 -

January 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOW MUCH TO PAY FOR FEEDER CATTLE?

The question of how much to pay for feeder cattle this year is difficult to answer because of recent escalating input costs and the uncertainty of a favorable selling price. Erratic market prices further aggravate this problem as well as unforseen or unpredictable economic and political events (currency exchange rates, interest rates, import quotas, etc.).

Nevertheless, careful planning, analyzing and calculating are necessary to determine what is an affordable price to pay for feeders if they are to return a profit.

To answer the question of "how much to pay," it is essential that you know your cost per pound of gain. It will, of course, vary from one operator to another, and can best be obtained from your own records. However, an estimate can be made from a series of tables, prepared by Garry Bradshaw, regional farm economist and Dwight Karren, regional livestock supervisor with Alberta Agriculture. These tables estimate what your costs per pound of gain are and what your selling price would have to be to cover your variable production costs. These costs include feed, interest, death losses, yardage (veterinary, bedding and insurance), purchase price, shrinkage, transportation and commission fees.

The decision on whether or not to buy feeder cattle and how much to pay for them is based on whether or not it is possible to recover these variable costs. Failure to recover them would indicate that it is not advisable to buy.

Once you know your cost per pound of gain and the current price of feeders, you can use the tables to determine what price you would have to receive to cover your variable costs. The relevant question then becomes what is the likelihood of the required selling price being realized.

Here is an example taken from the tables. It is based on $2 a bushel barley and $60 per ton hay. Interest is calculated at 15 per cent and yardage is estimated at 10¢ per pound of gain for 450-pound calves and at 5¢ for 750-pound feeders.

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How Much To Pay For Feeder Cattle (cont'd)

According to the table, the cost per pound of gain for a 450-pound steer laid in at $1, gaining 1.5 pounds per day and marketed at 750 pounds would be 66¢. The table says you would have to sell it for 86¢ just to cover your variable costs. If you were to buy this 750-pound animal for 86¢ and fatten it to 1050 pounds, the table says your cost per pound of gain would be 55¢ and that you would have to sell it for 77¢ to cover your variable costs.

These tables are contained in a publication entitled "Feeder Cattle Selling Prices Required to Cover Costs". Copies are available from district agriculturists and from the Publications Office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

January 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A NEW DECADE IN SOILS

by A. W. Goettel
Head of Alberta Agriculture's Soils Branch

With the close of the 1970's we tend to reflect on the past and wonder about the future. The 70's were the environmental decade. We all reviewed our own areas of endeavour to determine whether we were polluting the environment. We always seemed to recognize someone else's pollution but not always our own. In soils we dealt with animal manure as a fertilizer and a resource rather than waste. We have recognized that soils become acid from fertilizer use and from sulphur dioxide emissions. Fertilizer use has increased by 2½ times from 1970 to the present. We have tried to reclaim and improve soils through drainage, deep plowing or less tillage.

The last few years of the 70's caused us to look ahead to what may well be the energy decade - the 1980's. Natural gas is the main ingredient for manufacturing nitrogen fertilizer. Because the supply is finite, we have launched a number of research projects to increase fertilizer efficiency in crop production. The quest for new supplies of coal needs to be tempered by the proper stewardship of the land that will be disturbed. We will be reviewing some of our traditional practices such as summer-fallowing. More and more, the evidence seems to indicate that fallowing is causing soil deterioration and leading to erosion and salinity. The above and many other aspects of crop production will be the challenges of the 80's. Will we be ready for them?

- 30 -

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January 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO-DAY TREE PRUNING COURSES

Do you work with trees or are you especially interested in trees? If so, you may be interested to know that Alberta Agriculture sponsors tree pruning courses each spring. Although they are designed for people whose jobs involve trees and who are self-employed in this type of work, the courses are open to anybody who is interested in the maintenance and beautification of trees.

There are three courses altogether. Two of them will be held simultaneously at Brooks and Oliver (near Edmonton) on March 4 and 5. The third will be held at Fairview on March 11 and 12. Attendance at each course is limited to 30, but if any of the courses are oversubscribed, as has been the case in the last few years, an attempt will be made to accommodate the extra people in another course. It will be held immediately after the scheduled course at one of the three locations.

The courses cover pruning techniques recommended for shade, ornamental and fruit trees and are arranged in such a way that participants have ample opportunity to practise what they have learned in the classroom. Insect and disease control as they relate to pruning; tree structural growth; tree and shrub hardiness and tree varieties recommended for Alberta are also covered in the courses.

March 1 is the deadline for applications for any of the three courses, and the registration fee is only $10. Application forms can be obtained from the Provincial Tree Nursery, R. R. No. 6, Edmonton, T5B 4K3. (Telephone: 973-3351).

- 30 -

Alberta
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Communications Division

January 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SWINE HERD HEALTH VETERINARIAN APPOINTED

Dr. Terry Church, head of Alberta Agriculture's preventive medicine branch, has announced the appointment of Dr. Casey Schipper to the position of swine herd health veterinarian.

Dr. Schipper graduated from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in 1970 and served two years with C.U.S.O. in Malaysia. He was engaged in private practice in Taber prior to joining Alberta Agriculture in 1977 as sheep extension veterinarian. He held that position until his present appointment.

Dr. Schipper will continue to maintain an active interest in the sheep industry and to provide assistance whenever necessary.

- 30 -

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January 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTMENTS

The head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, Shirley Myers, has announced the following district home economist appointments and district home economist in-training appointments.

Susan Herbert

Ms. Herbert has been appointed district home economist at Fort Vermilion. She grew up on a mixed farm in southwestern Manitoba and graduated with a B. H. Ec. from the University of Manitoba in 1976. She obtained a teaching certificate from the same university in 1977, and taught junior highschool home economics in Manitoba from 1977 to 1979.

Brenda Kisyk

Ms. Kisyk has been appointed district home economist at Valleyview. She was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and obtained a B. H. Ec. from the University of Manitoba in 1976, having majored in nutrition. She was employed by Nor'west Co-op Health and Social Services in Winnipeg as community home economist from September 1977 to April 1978. She spent the summer of 1978 in Toronto as assistant home economist with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and the following six months as country/district home economist.

Arlene Swanson

Ms. Swanson has been appointed district home economist in-training at Brooks under district home economist Linda Henderson. Ms. Swanson grew up on a mixed farm in Saskatchewan and attended the University of Saskatchewan. She graduated with a B. S. H. Ec. in 1975. Following graduation she worked as extension assistant with the University of Saskatchewan's extension division. In addition to various part-time jobs, she was a domestic engineer and worked for Fanny's Fabrics in Regina. From April 1979 to October 1979, she was manager of Fanny's Fabrics in Calgary.

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District Home Economist Appointments (cont'd)

Deb Potter

Ms. Potter has been appointed district home economist in-training at Drumheller under district home economist Norma Dowkes Kirby. Ms. Potter is a native of Ontario and obtained her B. Sc. (general home economics) from the University of Western Ontario in 1978. She took an additional year of study in foods and nutrition, and in the summer of 1979 became project leader in London, Ontario, for the Canadian Consumer and Corporate Affairs' Food Talk Program, which is designed to promote good nutrition and buying habits among consumer groups.

- 30 -

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AGRI-NEWS

January 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Farm Management Training. 1

Respirable Dust In Alberta Co-Op Seed Cleaning Plants 3

Alfalfa Wilt 5

Alberta Livestock Protective Society. 7

Two Top Level Seminars For Banff. 9

Unwelcome Kitchen Guests. 11

New Farm Account Book 13

Plant Industry Division Director Appointed 14

Member Appointed To Research And Planning Secretariat 15

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

January 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM MANAGEMENT TRAINING

by Morley Douglas
Assistant Deputy Minister of Production, Alberta Agriculture

Things have changed since I was a district agriculturist in Vermilion from 1957 to 1966.

I arrived in Vermilion right off the farm, intent on changing extension's priorities from 4-H and service work to farm business assistance. I was idealistic and wanted to turn local priorities around. I wanted a farmer's aptitude and financial planning to determine his farm enterprise and his level of production. I didn't like general recommendations. I thought management practices and crops should be modified to an individual producer's capability.

This all seems logical in 1980, but in the late 1950's it created problems. First, upon arriving in Vermilion, I became an assistant DA and was promptly informed I was assigned to 4-H work. The senior DA determined and carried out any farm management assistance activities. Furthermore, the branch heads who controlled the department of Agriculture in those days were not comfortable with a financial approach.

I was a slow learner because I remained an assistant DA until 1959, when E. Buckingham, DA at Vermilion, retired. It was in the winter of 1959-60 that I took my first awkward steps towards offering a farm management training program.

It became the major program in the Vermilion district and was highly influenced by L. W. Rasmusson, supervisor of DAs; Dr. Alf Peterson, the department's only economist, and Howard Fulcher, DA at Olds. Howard supplied all the practical resource material in a three page memo. Alf Peterson provided in-service training, and, with Lloyd Rasmusson, the encouragement to get into the action, and to stay there. I, and my various assistant DAs, kept the show on the road from January through March of each year.

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Farm Management Training (cont'd)

There must have been a need for farm business training because farmers and their wives kept coming back night after night. As the years progressed, the demand increased until sessions were given four nights a week and some afternoons from January through March. I had my weekends and "blizzardy" days to do my preparation.

Since there wasn't much resource material, the program was based on cost of production, partial budgets and accounting, and special resource people were called in for legal and income tax information. The farmers used their own information. The cost to participants was that they had to keep a "Western Farm Account Book" for one year. Until such time as the number of participants became too large, there were summer farm calls to ensure that these books were kept up to date.

I realized very early that I had to deal with the large number of 4-H clubs, short courses and other things that were traditionally carried on. I simply met with the 4-H club leaders, the agricultural service boards, the chambers of commerce, etc. and explained what I wanted to do. They were unanimous in supporting the farm management training program and agreed to get along with a minimum of DA time.

The program must have been useful because both men and women continued to attend at a time when TV was a novelty. The program provided an appreciation of accounting and the use of accounts, and it made the department's many services known to farmers. Farmers and their wives clarified goals and made arrangements to achieve something possible.

In retrospect, its a real thrill to recall those days when I had a small part in helping farmers and their families solve their problems.

- 30 -

January 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESPIRABLE DUST IN ALBERTA CO-OP SEED CLEANING PLANTS

by Kris Chawla
Feed and Seed Processing Engineer, Alberta Agriculture

The board of directors and employees of Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants are becoming aware of the health hazards associated with grain dust. About 60 per cent of seed cleaning plants have installed dust control systems in the last five years under an upgrading grant provided by Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch.

Dust in seed cleaning plants is generated incidentally and dispersed during the cleaning and handling processes. The type of contaminant which occurs in the work areas of seed plants is the dust formed from solid inorganic and organic materials that have been reduced in size by mechanical means. They range from visible to submicroscopic. Particles smaller than 10 microns (1 micron = 1/25,000 of an inch) are considered respirable, remain suspended in the atmosphere longer than larger particles and penetrate more deeply into the respiratory system.

A test program was set up in the spring of 1979 to measure respirable dust concentration in working areas of Alberta Co-op seed cleaning plants. It was initiated to evaluate the effectiveness of existing dust control systems and to determine the changes required to improve these systems.

A portable respirable mass monitor TSI 3500 was used for accurate, fast and convenient readings of particle concentrations. Major polluting areas of seed cleaning plants are the dump pit area (main driveway), the basement and the head house (bin floor). The average dust reduction in the 43 plants with dust control systems was 95 per cent around the pit area, 80 per cent in the basement and 50 per cent in the head house. The average dust level did not exceed the upper limit set by Canada Labour of 10 mg/m^3 (maximum concentration was 8.73 mg/m^3) in any work area, but on an individual basis 16 plants out of the 43 exceed the

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Respirable Dust In Alberta Co-op Seed Cleaning Plants (cont'd)

upper limit. This was mostly in the head house and occurred when grain was received and cleaned at the same time. Maximum respirable dust concentration in 25 plants without dust control systems averaged 17.08 mg/m^3. Our goal is to bring the maximum dust concentration down to less than 5 mg/m^3 in all the plants with dust control systems. This can be achieved by providing more suction connections in the head house; by making all equipment, hoppers and dump pits dust tight and by rebalancing the systems.

The influence of other variables on respirable dust concentration was also studied. No significant difference was found in dust concentration when cleaning wheat, barley or oats, except when a debearder (buffer) was used for barley and oats. When grain was being received and cleaning machines were operating simultaneously, the dust concentration increased from 70 per cent to 130 per cent in plants with dust control systems, and from 115 per cent to 160 per cent in plants without dust control systems. Most of the plants store collected dust in a dust bin either overhead or at ground level and dispose of it in a nuisance ground or any other suitable location. However, some plants mix the dust with the screenings, which creates a dust concentration in the area where the screening leg head is situated that is four to five times higher than normal.

Copies of the complete report on the test program can be obtained from the Engineering and Home Design Sector, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 – 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427-2184).

- 30 -

January 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALFALFA WILT

Verticillium wilt of alfaifa is considered to be the most serious alfalfa disease in most of the areas of the world where this crop is grown. It often reduces the productive life of an alfalfa stand to two years from the normal five or six years.

Verticillium wilt of alfalfa is caused by the fungus Verticillium albo-atrum and was first reported in Europe in 1938. It spread steadily through the alfalfa growing areas of many European countries during the 1940's and 1950's, and made its first appearance in North America in 1962. At that time it was discovered in Quebec and Ontario. No further cases were reported in North America until 1976 when the fungus was found in Washington State. By the following year it had spread to several nearby states and to south-central British Columbia. A survey of alfalfa seed lots conducted last winter and spring by Agriculture Canada revealed that the disease was present in all the western provinces.

In Alberta pathogenic isolates of the fungus were obtained in 24 of 66 seed samples tested during the survey, but the disease has not yet been confirmed in plants collected from alfalfa fields. Dr. Ronald Howard, plant pathologist with the Alberta Horicultural Research Center at Brooks, says no verticillium fungus was found in more than a 100 alfalfa fields survey throughout Alberta by plant pathologists last summer, but that several "suspicious" plants were collected. He says the reason for the discrepency between the seed lot survey results and the plant survey results remains a mystery. However, European researchers have reported that the fungus may go "dormant" during hot weather, which would make it difficult to isolate.

The fungus can be carried on plant debris and any soil in alfalfa seed. Even very clean seed (less than 0.5 per cent plant debris and soil) contains enough material to carry the disease, Dr. Howard says. He points out that infested seed is the main way that the disease is spread.

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Alfalfa Wilt (cont'd)

To prevent its spread to new areas, all alfalfa seed, whether domestic or imported, except that to be used for sprouts, must be treated with thiram (4 oz active ingredient per 100 pounds of seed) before it is sold. However, carryover alfalfa seed and alfalfa seed mixtures now in bags are exempt from madatory treatment prior to sale, but the statement: "Agriculture Canada recommends that this seed be treated with a fungicide recommended for the control of verticillium wilt (for advice see your local agricultural representative)" must be printed on the bag or on the label. This labelling option, in effect during the 1978-79 season, placed the onus on the buyer to treat his seed before planting was not satisfactory, because the required fungicide was not always available from the retail outlet that sold the alfalfa.

"It is hoped", says Dr. Howard, "that treating all domestic and imported alfalfa seed with thiram will reduce the risk of introducing the disease into new plantings". Plant pathologists in the four western provinces plan to conduct a comprehensive survey of alfalfa fields next spring to determine the distribution pattern of the disease, and Agriculture Canada's Seed-Borne Disease Unit in Ottawa will continue to examine "suspect" lots of alfalfa seed for verticillium wilt. It will also inspect other domestic and foreign forage legume seed lots for Verticillium spp. Dr. Howard urges Alberta alfalfa seed growers to keep a close eye on their fields for signs of the disease and, if they suspect it to be present, to contact their federal or provincial plant pathologist. Typical signs are a temporary flagging of the upper leaves on a warm day and the subsequent wilting of the lower leaves and shoots. These become pale yellow and ultimately turn whitish and dry up.

In the meantime, Agriculture Canada has embarked on a breeding program to develop alfalfa varieties that are resistant to Verticillium albo-atrum, but, according to Dr. Howard, it will be several years before it bears fruit. At the present time currently licensed varieties are being screened to provide farmers with information on those that are most resistant to the disease.

January 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA LIVESTOCK PROTECTIVE SOCIETY

Have you heard of the Alberta Livestock Protective Society? It is a non-profit organization whose aims are to protect livestock from trucking and handling abuses and to carry out a continuous educational program in this area.

It has three full-time inspectors who work under the authority of the Alberta Transportation Act and its regulations, and who randomly check livestock traffic at provincial stockyards, auction markets, packing plants and feedlots.

Alberta truckers and the personnel at hog assembly yards and auction markets are very conscious of the regulations regarding overcrowding and weather protection. J. L. Kerns, president of the society, reports that very few problems were encountered in the first half of this year, but that the cold weather of last January and the extreme heat of last July did cause a higher than average mortality rate, which, he says, is to be expected in long hauls under these conditions.

The inspectors have apparently received very good co-operation from all sectors of the livestock industry which is borne out by a reduction in the number of warnings issued. Prosecutions are infrequent, but when they do occur, they are handled by the inspectors in co-operation with the RCMP, the SPCA or the Alberta highway patrol.

Infractions observed by the inspectors this year were as follows:

- Decking, unloading and braking violations
- Lack of partitions and faulty partitions and equipment
- Lack of bedding or sanding
- No tarpaulin covering
- Overcrowding
- Bruising, whipping and prodding
- Dirty transportation vehicles
- Stockyard and packing plant problems

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Alberta Livestock Protective Society (cont'd)

The inspectors remind truckers and stockyard and auction market operators to take into account severe weather changes when transporting livestock and to take into account the wind chill factor when providing protection for animals in transit during the winter months.

They also remind truckers that the use of a tarpaulin is mandatory when the temperature is below -18° C. It is the responsibility of the trucker to provide a tarpaulin, adequate bedding, wooden insulation for a steel bodied unit and proper windbreak ventilation or shade, depending upon the time of year and the weather.

It should be remembered that rain or snow add to the hazards of transporting livestock. Hence, adequate footing must be provided at assembly and marketing yards to minimize slippery conditions.

The Livestock Protective Society, now a province-wide, full-time operation, is financed by the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board, the Alberta Cattle Commission, the meat packing industry, the Edmonton and Calgary livestock exchanges, the Hartford Insurance Company and Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

January 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO TOP LEVEL SEMINARS FOR BANFF

"Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit - 1980" is the theme of two top level seminars that Alberta Agriculture will be conducting at the Banff Centre in Banff during March.

Both seminars will provide participants with information on the latest production and business management techniques and practices. They will feature leading speakers and researchers from across North America who will discuss a large variety of relevant and timely subjects.

Seminar A will be held from March 21 - 24. It is designed for people who have attended previous seminars, and who would like more in-depth information in the areas in which they are particularly interested. The eight topics that will be covered in this seminar are: Minimum and Zero Tillage; Forage and Pasture Management; Cow/Calf Management; Financial Management and Business Arrangements; Crop Marketing; Livestock Marketing; Stress and How to Manage it; Labor Management and Creativity and Motivation. A number of speakers will cover different areas of each topic, and participants will be able to attend the discussions on two topics during the three-day period.

Dr. Y. T. Kee, professor of Adminstrative Studies at the University of Manitoba, will be the feature speaker.

Seminar B will be held from March 25-28. It is intended for people who would like to know what is new in agricultural management and will cover 20 topics. They will include: Selecting a Professional Advisor; Labor Management; The Human Aspects of Transferring the Family Farm; Micro-Computers on the Farm; Estrus Synchronization; Growth Stimulants and Implants; Incorporation - Is It Worth Another Look?; Contract Law - Factors to be Aware of and Growth Strategies - How to Plan Expansion. Participants will be able to attend the discussions on 10 of the 20 topics.

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Two Top Level Seminars For Banff (cont'd)

Dale Henricks, a farmer from Iowa, U. S. A. will be the feature speaker at this seminar. He is the immediate past chairman of the Agriculture Council of America and a former chairman of the U. S. Agriculture Summit Committee.

The registration fee for both seminars is $75 for a single person and $100 for a couple. Registration forms and further information on the seminars can be obtained from any district agriculturist or from the Farm Business Management Branch, Box 2000, Olds, T0M 1P0 (Telephone: 556-8421).

- 30 -

January 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNWELCOME KITCHEN GUESTS

Winter is the time when people often find themselves with unwelcome kitchen guests. Bits of cereals, webbed particles of oatmeal and even a cast skin or skeleton in cupboards or drawers are typical signs of these visitors.

A further check may even reveal one or more "worms", small caterpillars or beetle larvae. Dr. Ulf Soehngen, entomologist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, says if your check shows that only one cupboard or drawer is infested, you are lucky! Such insects as the Indian meal moth, merchant grain beetle, carpet beetle and larder beetle feel equally at home in a wide variety of food products and will eventually take over your entire kitchen if not checked. It is usually the larval stage of stored food insects that does the damage, but an adult beetle may cause an equal amount of damage.

Foods most readily infested include nut meats, cereals, candy, macaroni, spaghetti, dried fruit, vegetables, dog food, bird seed, baking powder, sugar, some drugs, etc. Dr. Soehngen says the insects are usually brought into the house in packaged foods during the summer, but that some may fly in at that time through open doors and windows. Some species will enter food packages through very small openings in the container, while others will chew their way through the packaging material. In either case, they are very difficult to get rid of.

Dr. Soehngen recommends the following control measures:

- Determine the source of infestation. Check old packages of food especially carefully. If any packages are found to be infested, check all others stored in the same area. The recommended way of disposing of infested products in the winter is to wrap them in plastic and put them out-of-doors. Winter temperatures will kill the adult, pupal, and larval stages of these insects, but it does not always kill all the eggs.

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Unwelcome Kitchen Guests (cont'd)

If, for some reason, it is necessary to save a lightly infested food product, spread it out on a tray and heat it in the oven to 65°C for at least 20 minutes. An alternative method would be to put it in the deep freeze at a temperature of -18°C for at least 48 hours.

Then remove all the contents of each drawer or cupboard in the kitchen that contains food and put them where they cannot be accidentally contaminated by the pesticide you use to paint into all the corners and cracks in the cupboards or drawers. Since it is here that the insects hide, cover the corners and cracks completely with the insecticide and if possible let some of it run into the cracks.

Dr. Soehngen recommends using 2 per cent propoxur (Baygon), 0.15 per cent synergized pyrethrin or 2 per cent premium grade malathion. Because pesticides are poisonous, he stresses the importance of reading and following label directions and of using the concentration that is recommended.

After the insecticide has dried, preferably overnight, line the shelves and drawers with shelf liner paper or foil, being careful to cover corners and cracks to eliminate the possibility of food products coming in contact with insecticide-treated surfaces.

The following guidelines, also recommended by Dr. Soehngen, will help you to prevent a re-infestation.

- Purchase food in quantities that are small enough to be used within a reasonable period.
- Inspect all new purchases as soon as you get them home, and return any that are infested.
- Store dry foods in metal or glass containers with tightly fitting lids when possible.
- Keep the products as cool as possible because insects do not thrive in a temperature below 13.7°C.
- Clean all containers before you re-use them and never add new food to old.
- Check all your stored food products regularly.

January 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW FARM ACCOUNT BOOK

Agriculture Canada has a new account book for farmers.

Called the Farm Account Book, it is set up so that the user can record all farm transactions and see all aspects of his operation at a glance. The book is divided into two parts: the first is for keeping financial records and the second is for keeping crop and livestock records which can be used for planning and evaluating farm programs. The book also explains how to simplify record-keeping over a 12-month accounting period, and has a section for recording all assets including land, buildings, machinery, livestock, feed and supplies.

Under the financial section of the book, there is a space for recording farm income and expenses in detail and a farm balance sheet and income statement for year-end totalling.

At the end of the book there is a cash income section that will be a great help when it comes time for submitting income tax returns.

The Farm Account Book is available from Agriculture Canada, Information Services, Ottawa, K1A 0C7.

- 30 -

January 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Morley Douglas, assistant deputy minister of production with Alberta Agriculture, has announced the appointment of Bill Dent to the position of director of the plant industry division. He replaces Dr. Art Olson who became assistant deputy minister of research and operations in November of last year.

Mr. Dent was born and raised in British Columbia and attended the University of British Columbia. He graduated with an honors B. S. A. in 1958, having majored in agronomy.

Following graduation, he joined Alberta Agriculture and became district agriculturist at Lacombe. A year later he transferred to Two Hills where, as district agriculturist, he became involved in the development of the Rannock Grazing Reserve, started a weed-free area and helped to develop the Saddle Lake Agricultural Project.

Mr. Dent returned to the University of British Columbia in 1964 to take a degree in extension education and graduated in 1968 with an M. S. A. He remained district agriculturist at Two Hills until 1974 when he was appointed regional director at Barrhead, the position he held at the time of his present appointment.

- 30 -

Alberta
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January 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEMBER APPOINTED TO RESEARCH AND PLANNING SECRETARIAT

Norm Thomson, chairman of Alberta Agriculture's Planning and Research Secretariat, has announced the appointment of Gail Stinson to the secretariat.

Located in the Agriculture building in Edmonton, the secretariat assists the minister and deputy minister of agriculture and the directors in analyzing and in making appropriate recommendations on agricultural and related issues.

Ms. Stinson grew up in Ontario and is a 1964 graduate of the Macdonald Institute at the University of Guelph where she specialized in foods and nutrition. She moved to Alberta in 1964 and commenced graduate studies at the University of Alberta where she specialized in food chemistry.

Following graduation in 1966, Ms. Stinson taught at the University of Alberta. She then spent three years in England where she carried out pork research projects at the Meat Research Institute near Bristol. After returning to Edmonton in 1971, she was research associate in the Alberta Dairymen's Association Research Unit at the University of Alberta. She joined Alberta Agriculture in 1973 to work in the food research group in the food laboratory. Prior to her present appointment, she was a food industry consultant in Edmonton.

- 30 -

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3

AGRI-NEWS

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January 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Alberta Firms Receive Economic Assistance 1

Reminiscences Of An Extension Worker 2

International Embryo Transfers 4

Forage Seed Tariff Situation 6

Lentil Production In Alberta 7

Vaginal Prolapse In Ewes 9

PAMI Test Reports 11

Highlights Of Alberta Branch Of CSGA 12

Boulevard Tree Pruning Course 13

Federal-Provincial Livestock Exporting Seminar 14

The Tax Implications Of Selling A Farm 15

Agricultural Management Seminar For Peace River Region 16

No Till Farming Meeting 17

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January 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FIRMS RECEIVE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Lacombe Bakery Ltd. of Lacombe, Raymond Bake Shop of Raymond, Cattlemen's A.I. Ltd. of Priddis and Red Hat Co-operative Ltd. of Redcliff will all receive assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement.

Lacombe Bakery Ltd. will receive $48,941 to construct a new bakery. Two new jobs are expected to be created, and the estimated total capital to be employed is $212,788.

Raymond Bake Shop will receive $7,848 to modernize and expand its present facility. Two part-time jobs are expected to be created, and the estimated total capital cost to be employed is $39,238.

Cattlemen 's A.I. Ltd. will receive $100,418 to start a plant that specializes in custom processing horse meat for Europe and Japan. It is expected to create 20 full-time and part-time jobs, and the estimated total capital cost to be employed is $313,805.

Red Hat Co-operative Ltd., a vegetable grading and packaging plant, will receive $4,424 to purchase a wrapping machine, a conveyor system and an air staple gun. Modernization of the plant is required to increase its efficiency during peak load periods. It is expected to create additional part-time employment for students, and the estimated total capital cost to be employed is $22,122.

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement is designed to assist firms that establish, expand or modernize their nutritive processing facilities in rural Alberta. The assistance is shared equally by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture.

-30-

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January 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REMINISCENCES OF AN EXTENSION WORKER

by Larry Gareau
Former Supervisor of Forage Crops, Alberta Agriculture

The years 1963 -66 were good to me as a DA in Bonnyville.

One of the most satisfying experiences of my career was the implementation in the mid-1960's of the Soils and Crop Improvement Program. It was initiated during the first agreement between Canada and Alberta under the terms of the Agricultural and Rural Development Act (ARDA) and truly reflected my concept of extension work. It also fulfilled the motives and objectives of the ARDA program, which was created and designed by the then federal minister of agriculture, the Hon. Alvin Hamilton, to stimulate agricultural development and to improve farming and living conditions in the less favored areas of the country. Furthermore it was tailor-made for the Bonnyville district.

Basically, the Soils and Crop Improvement Program, by covering 50 per cent of the purchase price of forage seed, provided Alberta farmers with an incentive to purchase this seed for use in a rotation where soils and climatic conditions dictated it was necessary for successful farming.

To obtain this subsidy, a farmer simply called at his DA office, filled out an application and agreed to follow an acceptable cropping system. Hence, with the help of the DA, he worked out a farm plan and a crop rotation that was suited to his needs and in accordance with the demands of his land resources.

The DA was responsible for processing the application and for making arrangements to obtain the grant for the subsidy and the proper quantity of seed of the required species.

The grant was shared by the federal, provincial and municipal governments. Since the seed firms often contributed a good portion of their commission, both government agencies and the farmers benefited greatly from this co-operative arrangement.

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The program meant a lot of work. Even if the incentive was small in terms of dollars, the fact that a saving on goods purchased was offered made it extremely popular. Over 80 per cent of the farmers in the Bonnyville district took advantage of the program, and, in only three years, the acreage devoted to the production of perennial forage rose from 15 to 35 per cent, while the summerfallow acreage dropped by 50 per cent. From the point of view of the natural mediocre level of fertility in many of Bonnyville's grey wooded soils, this meant greater and more efficient productivity. The change was especially beneficial to the stability of livestock enterprises because it ensured a more reliable source of better quality feed.

The most beneficial and lasting effect of the program, however, was the close relationship that developed between me and the many farmers who never, or seldom, came to the DA office. The opportunity to talk to them about their basic farm plans established an understanding of their problems and a mutual confidence, which opened the door to further discussions on farm practices and outlook that were useful to both parties. It allowed me to dispense in a professional manner the goods of my trade and the goods of my competence, and, hopefully, it resulted in the dissemination of sound agricultural information that improved the welfare of these farmers.

Is this not the role of an extension worker?

- 30 -

January 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERNATIONAL EMBRYO TRANSFERS

Canadian cattle breeders are becoming increasingly interested in the potential of international embryo transfers because of the cost of moving pedigreed cattle from one part of the world to another. They would enable hundreds of embryos to be moved in a relatively small container and at very little cost.

Embryo transfers involve removing fertilized eggs or embryos from a genetically superior cow, referred to as a donor cow, and putting them into recipient or host cows that are at the same stage of the estrus cycle. Normally a cow releases only one egg, but the embryo transfer technique includes the use of a hormone to superovulate the donor cow so that about six eggs can be removed after she has been bred.

According to the director of regulatory programs in Agriculture Canada's health of animals branch in Ottawa, the technology used in the transfer of embryos is improving rapidly and the cost is dropping. For example, it is now possible to remove the embryos without surgery and their transfer to host cows is also beginning to be done without surgery. This new technique has greatly reduced the cost of embryo transplants.

The introduction of prostaglandins has also cut costs. This drug is used to synchronize the cycles of the host cows with that of the donor cow. Prior to the use of this drug, embryo clinics had to keep a large number of cows on hand for selecting host animals.

The trend towards performing embryo transfers on cattle breeders' farms rather than in a clinic has further reduced costs. The director of Agriculture Canada's regulatory programs says that even under these conditions 60 to 65 per cent of embryo transfers produce pregnancies in the host cows.

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International Embryo Transfers (cont'd)

He also says a big breakthrough in international embryo transfers will come with further improvements in freezing techniques. It seems that the process involved in freezing and thawing the embryos is very critical. They are generally cooled and frozen at a rate of from 1° C per minute to as slowly as 0.1° C per minute. At the present time reports indicate an overall embryo survival rate following freezing of about 30 per cent. As this rate improves and as transportation costs rise, international embryo transfers are bound to increase.

January 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE SEED TARIFF SITUATION

During the implementation period of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) tariff concessions on forage seeds with United States, both that country and Canada will wipe out tariffs on creeping red fescue, alsike clover, red clover and sweet clover.

According to Don Macyk of Alberta Agriculture's international marketing sector, these tariff reductions could be implemented in full immediately as part of the bilateral agreement between Canada and the United States. However, if this does not happen, there will be a 25 per cent reduction during the first half of 1980, which would be followed by further reductions of equal size after 1982. The total reduction is to be completed by January 1, 1987.

Current And Negotiated Tariff Rates On Canada's Forage Seed Trade With The U. S. A.

	Current CDN Rate	CDN MTN Negotiated	Current U.S. Rate	U.S. MTN Negotiated
Alsike Clover	1.25¢/lb.	Free	1¢/lb.	Free
Red Clover	1.25¢/lb.	Free	1¢/lb.	Free
Sweet Clover	1.25¢/lb.	Free	0.4¢/lb.	Free
Creeping Red Fescue	1.25¢/lb.	Free	0.5¢/lb.	Free

A large number of products traded between Canada and the U. S. have had their tariffs either reduced or equalized by the MTN. In fact, overall Canadian and U. S. tariff concessions cover more than half a billion dollars worth of agricultural products traded annually.

- 30 -

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January 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LENTIL PRODUCTION IN ALBERTA

The Laird lentil, a Chilean variety, developed at the University of Saskatchewan and released in 1978, is the variety recommended for Alberta, but, at this time, it should be grown only under contact.

Lentils are used mainly as a source of protein in soups and lentil dishes, and there are two types. One is the small-seeded Persian type. The other is the large-seeded Chilean type, which has a yellow cotyledon and is the type predominently grown in Western Canada.

Alberta Agriculture's special crops supervisor, Bob Park, says lentils are a cool season crop, and that they have a restricted root system which makes them only moderately resistant to high temperatures and drought. They will continue flowering and setting seed until their growth is terminated by some environmental factor like a nitrogen deficiency, drought, heat stress or frost.

Mr. Park also says a firm, weed-free seedbed on a well drained, highly fertile soil is recommended for lentils. Seeding is usually done with an ordinary grain drill, but a discer will also do a satisfactory job. If a discer is used, the soil should be packed after the crop has been seeded to prevent an excess loss of moisture. Stony fields should be avoided or the soil should be packed after seeding, regardless of whether a drill or a discer was used. The seeding rate will depend upon the size of the seed, but the optimum rate is about 16 seeds per metre of row, in rows that are 15 centimetres apart. This averages out to about 56 kg/ha for Chilean lentils.

The recommended time to seed lentils is before May 15 so that the plants achieve a good height and size before the first bloom. The yield will be higher on taller plants and swathing will be easier when the lowest pods are well above the ground.

Nitrogen is necessary for high lentil yields, but it is not usually necessary to apply it in large amounts. However, lentils do require a fairly high level of sulphur and phosphorous,

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Lentil Production in Alberta (cont'd)

and they should be inoculated with the pea, lentil and vetch strain of Rhizobium leguminosarum to ensure that they fix up to 25 percent of their nitrogen requirements.

Mr. Park emphasizes that one of the most important ways of obtaining profitable lentil yields is the successful limitation of weed competition. He says a relatively weed-free crop can be achieved by planting it in a weed-free field, practising cultural weed control and using herbicides. Cultural weed control can be done by harrowing the field crosswise to the seeding direction when the seedlings are eight to 10 cm tall (about two weeks after seeding). The herbicides that are registered for use on lentils are Carbyne, Hoe-Grass and Premerge.

Neither insects nor disease have been a problem in lentils grown in Alberta. However, since soil-borne root rots and sclerotinia occasionally occur, it is recommended that lentils be grown in a four or five-year cereal/rapeseed rotation.

Mr. Park stresses that extreme care must be used when harvesting lentils. He says the swather must be operated as close to the ground as possible, and that swathers with a relatively short table, a floating cutter bar and a pick-up reel are preferable for this job. To avoid excessive shattering, lentils should be swathed when the lowest pods have turned yellow to brown. Normally, lentils are ready to thresh about a week after they have been swathed. Low cylinder speeds are required during theshing to avoid chipping and cracking the seed and a low auger speed is recommended for the same reason. If it is necessary to dry lentils, a dryer temperature of 43°C should not be exceeded. Lentils can be safely stored with a moisture content of 16 percent.

January 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VAGINAL PROLAPSE IN EWES

Ewes that are kept on good quality pasture all summer and fed some grain during pregnancy and even more grain before lambing are prime candidates for vaginal prolapse, particularly if they are carrying twins or triplets.

This is the opinion of Dr. C. Schipper who is a veterinarian with Alberta Agriculture. He explains that the large fat deposits that accumulate around the intestines, kidneys, stomach and uterus reduce the space in a ewe's abdomen, thereby increasing the danger of vaginal prolapse.

To avoid overfat ewes, he recommends feeding sheep in groups according to their nutritional requirments. Adult, non-pregnant ewes can be fed about three pounds of a good quality hay per head per day until three to four weeks before they are bred. Replacement ewe lambs that are not being fed grain require as much good quality hay as they can eat.

Too much roughage is often mentioned as a common cause of vaginal prolapse, because it enlarges the rumen, and reduces the space in the abdomen. However, Dr. Schipper says too much roughage will not be a problem as long as the ewes receive a sufficient amount of grain during their last six weeks of pregnancy.

Some people feel that moldy hay is related to, or causes, vaginal prolapse. Dr. Schipper says moldy hay may contain a high level of a ligament relaxing estrogen-like chemical, but that no scientific evidence has yet shown it to cause vaginal prolapse. However, since moldy hay is usually low in energy, a pregnant ewe may be forced to eat too much of it if she is not fed any grain. In this case enlargement of the rumen would increase the tendency towards vaginal prolapse. Also, moldy hay tends to be dusty and the dust can cause coughing and sneezing which may contribute to the onset of this condition.

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Vaginal Prolapse in Ewes (cont'd)

Dr. Schipper also believes that a sloping pasture could affect the incidence of vaginal prolapse in fat ewes that are already prone to it. He points out that sheep tend to keep their heads up hill when they are lying down which provides a convenient slope for a loose vagina and cervix to slip out.

Another explanation for the development of vaginal prolapse is relaxed and weak supporting vaginal ligaments in ewes that are nearing the end of their pregnancy. Since weak ligaments are thought to be inherited, Dr. Schipper recommends culling ewes that have had a vaginal prolapse and possibly their offspring as well.

- 30 -

January 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAMI TEST REPORTS

Since it was established five years ago, the Prairie Agricultural Machinery Institute (PAMI) has carried out about 165 tests on agricultural machinery and other agricultural equipment.

PAMI was established to improve the design of agricultural machinery and equipment and to help Prairie farmers in their selection of it. PAMI staff have conducted extensive tests into the operational performance, capability, capacity and safety features of such things as chemical applicators, grain drills, drill transporters, moisture monitors, grain loss monitors, combines, balers, forage harvesters, cultivators, swathers, grain augers, potato harvesters and water and fuel pumps.

The results of each test are published in an evaluation report which includes a summary and conclusion in terms of the capacity, quality, and safety of that particular piece of equipment as well as recommendations to the manufacturer.

Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta co-operate in the testing program, and the test results are available to farmers, equipment dealers, manufacturers and anyone else who is interested in them.

In Alberta these reports can be obtained on a subscription basis from PAMI, c/o L. C. C. Campus, Lethbridge, T1K 1L5.

- 30 -

Alberta
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Communications Division

January 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGHLIGHTS OF ALBERTA BRANCH OF CSGA

The 180 members and guests who attended the 51st annual meeting of the Alberta Branch of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) were told that the National Board will be embarking upon a major pedigreed seed promotional campaign in Western Canada, and that the acceptable erucic acid level in foundation Candle rapeseed will be increased to 1.8 form 1.4.

Following is a list of the 1980 board of directors of the Alberta Branch of the CSGA.

President	Don Ostergard	Drumheller
Vice President	Robin Hopkins	Peace River
Past-President	Bruce Fuhr	Spruce Grove
National Directors:	Doug Cooper	Lacombe
	Len Haney	Picture Butte
	Bob Thirsk	Kelsey
Provincial Directors:	Bob Graham	Olds
	Wally Hummel	Milk River
	Dalton Longson	Beaverlodge
	Art Strain	Foremost
Secretary-Treasurer	Bill Witbeck	Lacombe

- 30 -

January 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOULEVARD TREE PRUNING COURSE

Does your job involve the maintenance of large shade trees? Alberta Agriculture's horticultural branch will be holding a boulevard tree pruning course at Ponoka on April 1 and 2.

Organized in 1978 in response to the increasing demand for information and training in the proper pruning of boulevard trees, this special course had 50 participants last year. It is intended for people whose jobs involve the maintenance of trees in institutional grounds and for people who prune large shade trees in cities, towns and villages. It is also intended to help Albertans protect their American elms against the deadly Dutch elm disease, which is causing such serious losses in Manitoba. Herman Oosterhuis, in charge of Alberta Agriculture's tree planting programs, says proper pruning will go a long way towards safeguarding our elms, which are our most desirable boulevard trees.

The two-day course covers the pruning techniques recommended for properly shaping large trees and prescribed safety measures. According to Mr. Oosterhuis, many large shade trees, especially those in smaller urban centres, are ruined by the pruning techniques that are being used. He says people often simply cut off the tops of their trees when they reach a certain height instead of controlling their size by shaping them as they grow.

The boulevard tree pruning course also includes information on the correct spacing of boulevard trees, choice of species, where and when to plant them and good maintenance procedures.

The deadline for registering for the course is March 20. Applicants will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. The cost of the course is only $10.

Application forms can be obtained from the Provincial Tree Nursery, R. R. No. 6, Edmonton, T5B 4K3 (Telephone: 973-3351).

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL LIVESTOCK EXPORTING SEMINAR

Alberta Agriculture, Agriculture Canada and the Federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce are jointly sponsoring a free livestock exporting seminar at the Red Deer Lodge in Red Deer from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on February 27.

The aim of the seminar is to present the latest information on procedures and opportunities to anyone interested in exporting livestock. Alberta Agriculture is receiving an increasing number of enquiries from foreign countries who are interested in purchasing livestock. Lee Harris of the department's international marketing sector believes that a well developed export market is excellent insurance against possible softening in the domestic market. He is also a great believer in not putting all one's eggs in one basket.

Those who attend the seminar will have an opportunity to meet federal and provincial officials who specialize in exporting livestock as well as those who are involved in the other aspects of export transactions.

The agenda will cover potential markets and what is being done to develop them; federal health of animal requirements; negotiating payment; export credit insurance; federal and provincial assistance programs; types of transportation; the preparation of export animals and the actual exporting procedure.

Further information on the federal-provincial livestock exporting seminar can be obtained from Lee Harris at 427-4291; Ab Barrie, Department of Industry Trade and commerce, at 425-6330; and Jim Lockhart, Agriculture Canada, at 425-4138.

-30-

January 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE TAX IMPLICATIONS OF SELLING A FARM

"Selling the Farm — Tax Implications and Professional Services" is the title of a seminar being sponsored by Alberta Agriculture at the St. Albert Inn in St. Albert on February 7.

The morning session will feature Gordon Thompson of Revenue Canada who will discuss tax regulations and strategies that apply when a farm (including the real estate, livestock, grain and machinery) is sold. He will explain how these regulations and strategies apply when a farmer leaves his farm, relocates his operation, leases the farm back to the purchaser, subdivides the farm prior to its sale and transfers the farm to his children.

The afternoon session will feature a panel of speakers who will outline the professional services that are available to anyone who is selling his farm.

K. D. Porter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants will talk about the role of an accountant in a farm sale transaction and the selection of accounting services.

Stan Mitchell of the Appraisal Institute of Canada will discuss the role of an appraiser in a farm sale transaction and the selection of appraisal services.

John Sterk of the Legal Education Society will outline the role of a lawyer in a farm sale transaction and the selection of legal services.

Angus Watt of the Investment Dealers Association will talk about investment opportunities, the role of the investment counsellor and the selection of investment services.

Art Jones of the Edmonton Real Estate Board will explain the role of a real estate agent and the selection of real estate services.

The registration fee for this seminar, which starts at 10 a.m. (registration is at 9:30 a.m.), and which will be of particular interest to farmers who have sold or who are anticipating selling their farms, is only $10 and this includes lunch at the St. Albert Inn.

- 30 -

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January 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT SEMINAR FOR PEACE RIVER REGION

Alberta Agriculture will be conducting an agricultural management seminar at the Grande Prairie Motor Inn in Grande Prairie from March 4 - 6. Its theme will be "Managing Agricultural Technology for Profit - 1980".

Designed for farm couples in the Peace River region, the seminar will cover 12 topics and feature top speakers from across Canada. The topics will include: Reducing Risk Through Hedging; Presenting Your Case for Credit; Farm Tax Strategies; Incorporation - Is It for Me?; Starting Pedigreed Seed Production; The Farmer and the Law; Design Considerations for Grain Handling Systems; Labor Management and Energy Management. Participants will be able to attend discussions on eight of the 12 topics.

The registration fee is $30 for a single person and $50 for a couple. Registration forms and further information on the seminar can be obtained from your local district agriculturist or from the Regional Farm Economist, Box 7777, Fairview, T0H 1L0 (Telephone: 835-2291).

- 30 -

Alberta
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Communications Division

January 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NO TILL FARMING MEETING

The Alberta No Till Farmers Association will hold its second annual meeting at the Wheatland County Inn in Strathmore on February 15.

The agenda will include: What is new in Coverage for No Till Crops by a representative of the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation; No Till Plots and Machinery Development by Murray Green, Alberta Agriculture, Airdrie; Chemical Weed Control for No Till Crops and Chemical Fallow by Ashley O'Sullivan, Agriculture Canada, Lacombe; Fertilizer Placement for No Till Crops by John Harapiak, Western Co-op Fertilizers; No Till Update by Wayne Lindwall, Agriculture Canada, Lethbridge; and Economic Comparisons and Forecasts for No Till and Conventional Farming by Lorne Owen, Alberta Agriculture, Lethbridge.

Last year's annual meeting was attended by 80 enthusiastic farmers from across the province who discussed many of the pros and cons and the techniques involved in no till farming. The spring and summer which followed this meeting brought home to many of them the necessity of reducing tillage to conserve moisture and to prevent wind erosion.

Further information on this year's meeting of the Alberta No Till Farmers Association can be obtained from Len Robinson, Box 640, Strathmore, T6J 3H0 (Telephone: 934-3355).

-30-

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AGRI-NEWS

February 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

4-H Clubs Of The Past 1

Cleavers - A New Problem Weed In Western Canada 3

Metric Conversion Of Chemical Products For Livestock 5

The Effect of Cold On Cattle 8

Canadian Forage Seed Varieties Tested In United Kingdom 10

1980 Seed Drill Survey 12

Leg Weakness In Swine 13

Grain Handling And Transportation Seminar 15

Beef And Dairy Production Clinics 16

Senior District Agriculturists Appointed 17

District Agriculturist Appointments 19

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AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

February 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4-H CLUBS OF THE PAST

by Jack Anderson
Former District Agriculturist with Alberta Agriculture at Medicine Hat

My first contact with 4-H or junior farm clubs was in the fall of 1945 when I had to judge grain plots and subsequently hold local achievement days. These left much to be desired --- cold halls with floors covered with sunflower shells.

In my second or third year, Fred Bell, DA at Drumheller who was judging achievement days, lambasted one club and said he never wanted to be asked back in to my district.

As a result of my three years' experience, and the observation that very few of these children ever got further from home than their local post office, I decided to have a summer camp at Elkwater. I obtained the use of the boy scout campsite in 1948 and talked their cooks into cooking for us. That year saw some 40 4-Hers from southern Alberta at camp for three days at a cost of $3 per child. Mr. Sylvan Hillerud of the University of Alberta's extension branch assisted me with the course work --- swimming, etc.

A survey of clubs in 1949 indicated that 60 children wanted to go to camp. After I had ordered the food for this number, only 14 showed up. What food could be, was returned, the cooks received next to nothing for their 4 a.m. to 11 p.m. stints each day, and I shelled out $60 to cover all commitments. The result of this lesson was advance registration, accompanied by the $3 fee.

Mr. Hillerud and Mr. Wagner (Alberta Wheat Pool) and nearby DA's assisted 4-H leaders for years and finally (I don't remember when) the department of Agriculture saw fit to provide supervisory staff, etc.

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One of our cooks, Mrs. O. U. Munday of Medicine Hat, prepared meals for our 4-H summer camps for 20 years. This job is now done by parents who are paid. Also, today's clubs that are located south of a line between Brooks and Vulcan hold their summer camps for five days during the first two weeks of July at a site provided by the government for 4-Hers. I understand these camps are now broken down into two age groups. My largest camp was 115. It included leaders and 4-Hers ranging in age from 12 to 21.

I feel that many young people have gone on to university as a result of having attended a summer 4-H camp.

-30-

February 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLEAVERS – A NEW PROBLEM WEED IN WESTERN CANADA

by Dr. P. A. O'Sullivan
Agriculture Canada, Research Station at Lacombe

Cleavers, an annual of the bedstraw family, is rapidly becoming a problem weed in Western Canada, particularly for the rape grower.

D. A. Dew, a weed biologist with Agriculture Canada at Lacombe, estimates that half a million acres in Alberta are now infested with cleavers. This acreage includes a large portion of east-central Alberta and the Peace River district. The problem with the weed is two-fold: firstly, there is no means of controlling cleavers in rapeseed, and, secondly, it is virtually impossible to separate cleavers seed from rapeseed.

For those who do not know what cleavers looks like, it is very easily identified by its square stem, which is covered with backwards pointing bristles. Another sure way of finding out whether or not you have cleavers is by walking through your field some time towards the end of the growing season. If cleavers is there, it will leave the field with you by wrapping itself around your pant legs and holding on by means of its backward pointing bristles. The plant grows from two to four feet high and has leaves in whorls of six or eight.

Not only are there no herbicides currently registered for controlling cleavers in rapeseed, but the weed does not appear on any labels of herbicides which are used in cereals.

In experiments conducted at the Lacombe research station in 1979, several compounds showed good promise for cleavers control in cereals. These included Buctril M or Brominal M, Torch and Sencor plus MCPA. All applications were made at currently recommended field rates when the cleavers had one to two leaf whorls. In studies conducted elsewhere, cleavers was controlled in cereals with Compitox at 12 - 16 oz/A (active ingredient) or Banvel at 2 oz/A (active ingredient). As far as cleavers control in rape is concerned, only benazolin showed some promise of controlling this weed. An ester form of benazolin (not currently available in Canada) was superior to the amine form (available in Canada), but rape injury was severe with the ester.

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Cleavers — A New Problem Weed In Western Canada (cont'd)

The results presented above represent one year's data collected from one experiment on rape and one on barley. We are presenting them here because no reliable information currently exists on the control of cleavers. If a farmer has a problem with cleavers, these results may serve as a guide for him to experiment with. In order to provide reliable information on the control of this new problem weed, many more experiments will need to be conducted over several years.

- 30 -

February 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

METRIC CONVERSION OF CHEMICAL PRODUCTS FOR LIVESTOCK

Since all pesticides will be labelled in metric units after January 1, 1981, and the conversion of many has already started, it is worthwhile taking time now to learn the metric units.

The first unit to learn is the kilogram (kg). It is the unit that will replace the pound. One kg is approximately equal to 2.2 pounds, and contains 1000 grams (g).

To help you think in metric, here are a few common Canadian livestock weights that you may wish to have at your fingertips.

	Canadian Unit	Metric Unit (approximate)
Market Steer	1000 - 1200 lb	450 - 550 kg
Yearling Steer	600 - 800	270 - 360
Feeder Calves	400 - 500	180 - 230
Veal Calves	200 - 350	90 - 160
Newborn Calf	60 - 100	25 - 45
Mature Dairy Cow	900 - 1400	400 - 640
Mature Bull	1400 - 2400	640 - 1100
Market Hog	180 - 220	80 - 100
Feeder Hog	40 - 45	18 - 20
Sow	300 - 500	135 - 230
Boar	300 - 800	135 - 360
Market Lamb	80 - 100	35 - 45
Ewe	130 - 150	60 - 70

The next metric unit to master is the litre (L). One L is approximately equal to 0.22 imperial gallons and contains 1000 millilitres (mL).

The first step in understanding the metric conversion of chemical products for use on livestock entails determining the capacity of your sprayer tank in litres. You can do this by using the following table which converts imperial gallons to litres. (When you have established the capacity of your tank in litres, mark it on the tank for future reference.)

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Metric Conversion Of Chemical Products For Livestock (cont'd)

Imperial Gallons	Litres (approximate)
1	4.5
2	9
5	23
10	45
50	225
100	450
150	700
200	900
500	2300

In the metric system pressure is stated in kilopascals (kPa) rather than in pounds per square inch (psi). One kPa is equal to approximately 0.14 psi. A sprayer used for louse control will require a pressure of 2500 kPa to be equal to 350 psi, and a sprayer used for disinfecting a barn will require a pressure of 5000 kPa to be equal to 700 psi.

The following two examples show how metric units will be used for pesticides.

A farmer decides to spray his herd of 100 cattle to control lice. He uses a 2 kg pesticide container on which the label states that one kg of 25 per cent WP per 100 L of water should be applied at a rate of 4 — 5 L per animal under a pressure of 2750 kPa. To determine how much product to use, he calculates the total amount of spray mixture required, which at a rate of 4 L per animal would be 400 L. Since the rate of application stated on the label is one kg/100 L, the treatment will necessitate the use of 4 kg (2 packages) diluted in 400 L of water.

In the second example, a farmer decides to treat 50 feeder calves with a ready-to-use pour-on insecticide to control warble grubs. He uses a product that comes in a one L container. The label directions state that 15 mL of the product should be used for each 45 kg of the animal's body weight.

The farmer estimates the average weight of his calves to be 180 kg. He then divides 180 kg by 45 kg which equals 4. Four multiplied by 15 mL equals 60 mL, which means that

- (cont'd) -

Metric Conversion Of Chemical Products For Livestock (cont'd)

each animal requires 60 mL of the product and that it will take 3 L (60 mL/animal x 50 or 3000 mL) to treat the herd. Hence, this farmer needs to buy three one L containers of the pesticide.

Remember with metric that the actual amount of the product you use is exactly the same as the amount you would use in imperial units; it is only the way of describing the amount that has changed.

February 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE EFFECT OF COLD ON CATTLE

by Norman Therrien
Alberta Agriculture's District Agriculturist at Camrose

Understanding cold stress will help us to market and manage our cattle better.

One of Dr. Bruce Young's experiments on the effect of cold on sheep at the University of Alberta showed that an animal reduces its water intake during very cold weather, and that there is a corresponding reduction in its body fluids, particularly in the rumen or gut. The experiment also showed that where an animal was re-exposed to a warm envirnment, its lost body fluids were rapidly regained and there was a considerable increase in its liveweight.

These results can be applied to market cattle with respect to shrinkage. It is obvious from the above that it would not be a good idea to sell cattle that are cold-stressed because their liveweight would be down, and a lower liveweight means fewer dollars. On the other hand, it is a good idea to buy replacement cattle that are cold-stressed because the lower level of water in their gut means they will weigh less and, therefore, cost less.

From the point of view of management, the feeding and energy levels of animals that are cold-stressed should be increased either by increasing their feed or by improving its quality. Animals that are cold and shivering need more internal body heat to keep warm. They also need more energy to increase their metabolic rate while they are becoming acclimatized to the cold. Still another reason for increasing the amount or quality of feed is that an animal's ability to digest feed decreases in very cold weather. Because it has to eat more to get the same amount of nutrients, Dr. Young recommends increasing feeding levels by one per cent for every $1^{o}C$ drop in the outside temperature. This means that when the temperature is -30 to -35 ^{o}C, feeding levels should be increased by 25 to 35 per cent. However, the type of cattle being fed also has an influence on feeding levels. Feedlot steers, for example, will not need such a large increase

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The Effect of Cold On Cattle (cont'd)

in feed, but first-calf heifers may need a larger one.

Since cattle will often not eat the extra feed, it may be necessary to achieve the same result by improving the quality of the feed being fed.

-30-

February 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANADIAN FORAGE SEED VARIETIES TESTED IN UNITED KINGDOM

Agriculture Canada's food production and marketing branch, the Canadian Seed Trade Association and the federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce have attempted to breach the forage seed import barriers, erected by the European Economic Community (EEC) in the mid-1960's, by entering Canadian varieties in foreign trials.

The EEC Council issued a directive in 1966 which standardized forage seed regulations among its members, thereby eliminating and/or reducing all imports of non-pedigreed seed, all varieties deemed not suitable for Europe and all varieties considered to be inferior to their European counterparts. This directive seriously reduced Canadian forage seed exports, which dropped further when the United Kingdom joined the EEC in 1976.

The European licensing system permits forage seed varieties that pass foreign tests to be listed in all nine EEC member countries, but any variety can be blocked by individual countries. Although the listing of a variety does not ensure sales, it does at least provide an opportunity for it to be sold in EEC countries.

Marcel Maisonneuve of Alberta Agriculture says Canada chose the United Kingdom for the majority of its foreign trials because of its previous trading and communication links with that country.

Following is a summary of the results of a few Canadian forage seed varieties that have been recently tested or are how being tested in the United Kingdom.

. Ottawa red clover - this variety has been withdrawn from the trials because it did not pass the tests.

. Leo birdsfoot trefoil - this variety has been provisionally listed after three successive years of testing, but further tests are being carried out.

. Juno orchardgrass - this variety has been withdrawn from the trials because of poor performance.

. Melrose sainfoin - this variety has been provisionally listed after three successive years of testing.

- (cont'd) -

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Canadian Forage Seed Varieties Tested In United Kingdom (cont'd)

. Aurora alsike - this variety has been listed in the common catalogue after three successive years of testing.

. Dawn alsike clover - this variety has been removed from the provisional list because of insufficient data to differentiate it from Aurora.

. Roamer and Rambler alfalfa - these varieties are listed only in France.

The following Canadian public varieties are presently listed in the EEC common catalogue: Bounty, Champ, Climax and Drummond timothy; Altaswede red clover and Boreal creeping red fescue.

Mr. Maisonneuve points out that all Canadian varieties that pass their tests then have to compete with European varieties that have been bred to suit local conditions and that are strongly promoted by those who own their distribution rights. He says the participation of Canadian seed companies and growers in the market place through the multiplication of foreign varieties in this country has helped to offset our loss of trade in Europe, but that the volume of forage seed being sold abroad still falls far short of that which was sold in the 1960's and early 1970's.

February 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 SEED DRILL SURVEY

Alberta Agriculture intends to conduct a province-wide seed drill survey this spring.

According to Alberta Agriculture's cereal crops specialist, Murray McLelland, district agriculturists and agricultural fieldmen will collect samples directly from farmers' seed drills in all areas of the province, and the approximately 1,000 samples will be analyzed for freedom from weed seeds, for germination and for quality.

He says he is optimistic that the survey will show a marked improvement over the results obtained from the last survey, conducted in 1973, in terms of weed seed content, germination and the general quality of seed being used by Alberta farmers. The 1973 survey showed that 33 per cent of the seed sown was "reject" on the basis of the Canada Seeds Act. Mr. McLelland bases his optimism for improvement in next spring's survey on the expansion and greater use by farmers of the co-op seed cleaning plants now in operation throughout the province.

He request the co-operation of farmers who are contacted in the field while seeding next spring, and points out that individual results will be kept confidential. The information gathered will be compiled on a regional and provincial basis to:

- Determine the quality of the seed being sown in Alberta.
- Determine the percentage of treated seed being sown.
- Determine seed suppliers' marketing range.
- Determine deficiencies in the seed supply system.
- Determine the percentages of pedigreed and commercial seed being used by farmers.
- Determine the level of seed contamination and where it occurs.
- Form a basis for future seed industry policies and programs.

Mr. McLelland says the 1980 seed drill survey will provide the industry with valuable information which will benefit farmers, seed growers and seed cleaning plants.

- 30 -

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February 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEG WEAKNESS IN SWINE

There is no conclusive evidence at present to show that confinement rearing is a major contributing factor to joint cartilage lesions or leg weakness in swine.

The incidence of leg weakness is greatest in young growing pigs. In fact, approximately 20 per cent of the boars entered in Alberta's record of performance program were culled because of leg weakness in 1975, and recent data indicate that 10 to 30 per cent of the breeding boars in the United States have this condition. In a Norwegian study, 48 per cent of 373 Landrace pigs tested were considered to be suffering from leg weakness.

Studies carried out by animal scientists at the University of Alberta suggest that most young pigs have one or more of their leg joints affected by osteochondrotic and/or osteoarthrotic lesions of varying severity. The incidence was found to be similar in boars, barrows and gilts.

A high incidence of lesions is often attributed to current intensive production and confinement-rearing systems. Rapid growth rates, lack of exercise and the use of concrete floors are thought to be among the prime causative factors. However, the scientist of the University of Alberta found no significant relationship between rate of growth and the incidence of severe joint lesions. Norwegian research, on the other hand, has shown a greater proportion and degree of joint lesions in rapid growing lines of genetically selected boars than in slow growing lines. However, since the incidence of lesions was very high even in the slow growing line, ethological factors other than growth rate probably contibuted to the joint abnormalities in this research.

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Leg Weakness in Swine (cont'd)

A number of recent research reports have indicated that the severity of joint lesions is less in pigs housed in groups than in those individually confined, but the Alberta scientists found that the incidence and severity of cartilage lesions were not lowered when boars were exercised on a treadmill. Concrete floors, in contrast to earth floors or deep straw bedding, did not appear to have any significant effect on either the incidence or severity of joint lesions.

Regardless of the treament (i.e. concrete floors, etc.) used in the university studies, no significant effects were observed in the pigs. However, the number of joint lesions has been shown to increase with an increase in an animal's age or body weight. Research has shown, for example, that the incidence of osteochondrosis increased from 0 to 80 per cent during the 10 to 20 weeks of age growth period. It is thought that pressure from an increase in body weight may promote the degenerative process within the cartilage or cause a circulatory disturbance in the area. Hence, an increase in body weight or increased pressure on the weight-bearing sites of the joint cartilage may facilitate the occurrence of osteochondrosis or osteoarthrosis.

Norwegian investigators noted abnormalities in external conformation and joint shape as factors which induced mechanical stress to the joint. Their reports suggest that a breeding program to select pigs against these defects might be helpful, but other studies have shown that the inheritance of leg weakness is very low. This means that the problem would be difficult to solve by selection alone. The University of Alberta scientists believe that we must first learn the cause of the cartilage lesions and then find a solution to the problem.

-30-

February 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAIN HANDLING AND TRANSPORTATION SEMINAR

"Grain Handling and Transportation—What Does the Future Hold?" is the theme of a public seminar to be held at Marlborough Inn in Calgary from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on February 22. It is being sponsored by the Calgary Branch of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists (AIA).

The agenda will cover the following: Limitations of the Present Grain Handling and Transportation System as Identified by the Booz -Allen-Hamilton Study — Alex Kowalchuk, operations manager with the Alberta Wheat Pool; Who is responsible for What in the Grain Handling and Transportation System —Jim Mants, assistant co-ordinator of country operations with the Grain Transportation Authority; What is Possible in Railroad Efficency — Alan Hermanson, regional manager of planning, CN, Edmonton; What is possible in Handling Systems—Gary Sargent, director of the project management division of Buffalo Engineering, Calgary; and Farming without Quotas -- How Would Farmers Operate if They Could Sell All They Could Produce— Ken Stickland, manager of Foodwest Resource Consultants of Edmonton and a farmer in the Red Deer area.

Further information on the seminar can be obtained from Wilson Loree, president-elect of the Calgary Branch of AIA, Farm Business Management Branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, TOM 1P0 (Telephone: 556-8421).

-30-

February 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEF AND DAIRY PRODUCTION CLINICS

Ways of improving production and reproductive efficiency in beef and dairy herds will be outlined at a series of free clinics to be held in Red Deer, Calgary, Lethbridge and Edmonton in mid-February.

The clinics are being sponsored by United Feeds, Tuco Products, the Royal Bank of Canada, American Breeders Service (Canada) Ltd. and United Farmers of Alberta. Representatives of these firms will give formal presentations throughout the day and there will also be informal floor displays.

The morning agenda will cover: Financial Management; Role of Nutrition in Beef Production; Effective Beef Breeding: Cattle Handling Facilities and Synchronized Breeding.

The afternoon agenda will cover: Effective Dairy Breeding; Role of Nutrition in Dairy Production; Mastit s Treatment: Fly Control and Floor Displays.

The Red Deer Clinic will be held on February 19 in the Creative Arts Building at the Westerner Exhibition Grounds.

The Calgary Clinic will be held on February 20 at the Al Sans Centre, 116 Glenmore Trail S.W.

The Lethbridge Clinic will be held on February 21 at the Casino, Lethbridge Fairgrounds.

The Edmonton clinic will be held on February 22 in the Designs for Living Building at Edmonton Northlands.

-30-

February 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SENIOR DISTRICT AGRICULTURISTS APPOINTED

John Calpas, director of Alberta Agriculture' extension division, has announced three senior district agriculturist appointments.

Mike Clawson

Mike Clawson has been appointed senior district agriculturist at Lethbridge. He replaces Murray McLelland who has been transferred to the field crops branch of the plant industry division in Lacombe.

In his new position, Mr. Clawson will help the regional director to administer and supervise district agriculturist programs in the Lethbridge, Foremost and Warner districts.

He is a native of southern Alberta and attended the Brigham Young University, Utah, U.S.A. He graduated in 1969 with a B.Sc. (agronomy) and obtained his M.Sc. (agronomy) from the same university in 1973.

Mr. Clawson joined Alberta Agriculture in 1974 as district agriculturist-in-training at Claresholm. The following year he became district agriculturist at Foremost where he remained until his present appointment.

Russ Horvey

Russ Horvey has been appointed senior district agriculturist at Hanna where he will help the regional director administer and supervise district agriculturist programs in the Hanna, Oyen and Drumheller districts. His appointment fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Stan Pettem.

Mr. Horvey comes from Saskatchewan and graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a B. Sc. (agriculture), in 1973. His major was animal science. He joined Alberta Agricul ture following his graduation and took his district agriculturist training at Calgary. He then became district agriculturist Three Hills where he remained unitl his present appointment. He recently served a three-year term as president of the Canadian Galloway Assoication.

Senior District Agriculturists Appointed

Miles Kuryvial

Mr. Kuryvial who has been senior district agriculturist at Spirit River, has been transferred to Grande Prairie where he will continue to help the regional director to administer and supervise district agriculturist programs in the Grande Prairie, Spirit River and Fairview areas.

Prior to his first senior district agriculturist appointment, Mr. Kuryvial was district agriculturist at Leduc, regional livestock supervisor in Edmonton and supervisor of the animal industry division's artificial insemination section in Edmonton.

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February 4, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS

Ralph Berkan, associate director of Alberta Agriculture's extension division, has announced the appointments of the following district agriculturists.

Delyn Jensen

Delyn Jensen has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Vegreville where he will be working with district agriculturist Nick Chomik.

A native Albertan, Mr. Jensen graduated from Utah State University in the U.S.A. in 1970 with a B. Sc. (agriculture). His major was animal science. He then became ranch manager for Deseret Farms Ltd. of Lethbridge, which is a large grain and beef operation, and spent part of a year teaching horsemanship at the Lethbridge Community College before returning to Utah State University. He completed his master's program in animal breeding in 1979.

Rick Klippenstein

Rick Klippenstein has been appointed district agriculturist at Fort Vermilion where he replaces Guy Kerr who resigned prior to his present appointment, Mr. Klippenstein was co-district agriculturist at Grande Prairie.

He is a native of Manitoba and a graduate of the University of Manitoba. He obtained his B. Sc. (agriculture) with a major in animal science in 1976. While at university he spent two summers working for the Manitoba Department of Agriculture and joined Alberta Agriculture as district agriculturist-in-training at Valleyview in 1976. He was appointed to Grande Prairie upon completion of his training period.

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District Agriculturist Appointments (cont'd)

Jerome Manchur

Jerome Manchur has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Ryley where he will be working with district agriculturist Bill Brass. Mr. Manchur will replace Jim Mackay who resigned.

Mr. Manchur comes from Alberta and graduated from the University of Alberta with a B. Sc. (agriculture) in 1975. He spent one summer while at University as an assistant district agriculturist at Manning. Following graduation he worked with Alberta Agriculture as a green certificate farm training co-ordinator and as an instructor at Fairview College. He also operated a grain farm near Fairview for four years.

Lee Melvill

Lee Melvill has been appointed district agriculturist at Hanna where he replaces John Portail who has been transferred to Brooks as co-district agriculturist.

Mr. Melvill comes from Cereal, Alberta, but took his university training at the University of Saskatchewan. He graduated with a B. Sc. (agriculture) in 1974 having majored in animal science.

Prior to joining Alberta Agriculture, he was an agricultural representative in Saskatchewan for four years. Before that he was a farm development specialist with the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture. He has had a considerable amount of experience in counselling farmers on financial planning.

George Rock

George Rock has been appointed district agriculturist at Vermilion. Prior to this appointment, he spent a three-month orientation period with senior district agriculturist Brian Laing at Provost.

District Agriculturist Appointments (cont'd)

Mr. Rock comes from the Drumheller area and is a 1966 graduate of the University of Alberta. He has a B. Sc. (agriculture) with a double major in animal science and agricultural economics. Following graduation he returned to the family farm and later became president and general manager of the operation. He has had a considerable amount of experience in commercial grain and beef operations as well as with purebred sheep and swine.

Bill Smith

Bill Smith has been appointed co-district agriculturist at Fairview where he will be working with district agriculturist David Samm.

Mr. Smith comes from south-central Alberta and is a 1976 agricultural graduate from the University of British Columbia. His major was agricultural economics with emphasis on farm management and farm records.

While at university he had a considerable amount of experience with Canfarm. Following graduation, he worked on a farm for a year and then joined Alberta Energy and Natural Resources as an agrologist in the area of public lands administration. He joined Alberta Agriculture in 1978 as a farm management technician and then transferred to the extension service. He took his district agriculturist training at Peace River.

-30-

AL / 691

AGRI-NEWS

AL/A39/A16/A39/80-2-11

February 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

District Agriculturist's Experiences North Of The Peace (Jubilee Series) 1

Fababean Production In Alberta 3

A Potential Production Problem In Rape 5

1980 Grasshopper Forecast 6

1980 Dairy Outlook 7

1980 Canadian-Netherlands Youth Program 9

Handling And Reporting Stray Livestock 11

Farming For The Future - The First Year 12

General Manager Of Administration For ADC Appointed 18

Head Of Animal Reproduction Section Appointed 19

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February 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST'S EXPERIENCES NORTH OF THE PEACE

by A. W. Beattie
Director of Public Relations, Alberta Wheat Pool

It was 1949 and everything north of the Peace River was a frontier empire. Edmonton was a day's travel away by train and two days by car and night telephone service had just been introduced. Mud, miles and a multitude of jobs were key factors in a district agriculturist's life.

Headquarters was not a constant companion. The most senior people rarely came to visit. The deputy minister, C. S. Longman, came once during my 10 years. He came to decide whether to fire me. He went home with the same staff as when he came. He was fair, feared, and fabled. Next to him, the most powerful person at headquarters seemed to be the departmental treasurer. It was he who searched for a pair of rubber boots in one staff member's expense account, and other things that were suspect in mine.

The Fairview School of Agriculture was opened one day in November 1951. It was a beautiful day. Our minister was Dave Ure who proceeded from the ceremony to Grimshaw for an evening meeting. After some sociability, sandwiches and coffee, we proceeded in the same direction. On approaching the corner south of Brownvale, we were surprised to see a number of headlights all pointing to the south just off our line of progress. We then saw four cars lined up side by side pointing up towards the road. The instinct was to slow down. That was the error for as we approached the sloped portion of the glazed corner, the DA car simply turned its back wheels towards the ditch, and gracefully lined itself up in the snow beside the other four cars. No collision, no real damage, but five cars unable to move with the road so slippery it was impossible to stand erect.

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District Agriculturist's Experiences North Of The Peace (cont'd)

The result of this escapade was a late arrival not only at Berwyn, but also at Grimshaw where for the only time in my life, the minister needed "his district agriculturist" for an item of information and asked in a threatening voice "where is my DA?"

Hospitality made extension work worthwhile and generous people fed us, bedded us down when necessary and understood the limitations of a general practitioner. They also marvelled at the courage and dedication of one district home economist who drove the gumbo roads when she should not have done so, and crossed the Peace River on the ice when the water was up to the hub caps on her car.

In those days annual reports were numbers. Sixteen pages of long forms required estimates and mental gymnastics to complete. I am sure the figures were useless, but the system was served. It came as no surprise when a form letter arrived each year following my annual report pointing out that the number of miles I had travelled exceeded the average for the province. Automobile expenses in this part of the province were greater per mile and per vehicle than anywhere else.

Success was measured in promotion, and an individual who had an opportunity to go to headquarters usually took it. One counsellor-supervisor deserves credit for interrupting the process more than once. He was Fred Newcombe, director of extension, who asked the questions "is there really a job to do there" and "is it something you want to do?" He used this helpful technique to assess a so-called opportunity for one of his staff. Twice he asked those questions, and twice I didn't go.

February 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FABABEAN PRODUCTION IN ALBERTA

The acreage devoted to fababean production in Alberta has stabilized considerably over the last two years as a result of higher vegetable protein prices and the fact that fababeans are considered an excellent source of protein and energy for livestock.

According to Bob Park, supervisor of special crops with Alberta Agriculture, the small fababean varieties that are available in Alberta are best adapted to the moister regions of the province, and the crop performs best under relatively cool growing conditions. He stresses that fababeans should not be grown in the same soil more often than once every four years, and that fababean rotations should not be seeded into an oilseed or legume stubble because of the danger of disease.

Since fababeans can withstand late spring frosts, they should be seeded around May 10 into a moist seedbed. A dry seedbed will result in both delayed and uneven germination because the seeds absorb their own weight in water. The recommended seeding depth is about 7.5 cm and the recommended seeding rate is 135-180 kg/ha in 15 cm row spacings. Fababeans can be seeded with a conventional grain drill or a discer.

Although four fababean varieties have been licensed in Canada, at this time only three are recommended for Alberta. In order of their adaptability and performance, they are Herz Freya, Diana and Ackerperle.

Because fababeans are legumes, they can fix nitrogen in the soil, but Mr. Park says they must be inoculated with a strain of bacteria (fababean inoculum) that is not recommended for other legumes. The rate is 4.2 gm/kg of seed. He also says fababeans do not respond well to applied nitrogen, but that they require about 20 kg/ha of phosphorous drilled in with the seed.

Chemical weed control is a must for fababean crops because they do not compete well with common annual broadleaved and grassy weeds. This lack of competition is particularly evident in the seedlings. Treflan, Premerge, Basagram and Carbyne are all registered

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for use on fababeans. One cultural method that can be used as a last resort, and which, according to Mr. Park, has shown good results in Alberta, involves harrowing the crop crosswise to the seeding direction when the seedlings are 5 to 13 cm tall. Harrowing must be done in dry, sunny weather.

There are very few insects in Alberta that attack fababeans, but Mr. Park says crops should be watched for three diseases. They are ascochyta blight, a seed-borne disease, which causes stem, leaf and pod spotting; sclerotinia, which is common in sunflowers, rapeseed and peas; and fusarium root rot, which attacks some legumes and oilseed crops.

Fababeans should be swathed when 25 percent of the plants in the field have only one or two black lower pods because losses from shattering have been reported in Alberta. The cylinder speed on the combine should be reduced to between 300 and 500 RPM and maximum concave clearance should be used. If fababeans have to be artificially dried, the dryer temperature should not be above 32°C. They store well at a moisture content of 16 percent or lower.

- 30 -

February 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A POTENTIAL PRODUCTION PROBLEM IN RAPE

Dr. Jack Horricks, plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture, warns Alberta rape growers to select the source of their seed very carefully this spring.

He reports that there is a virulent strain of black leg that is about to become another production problem unless growers exercise extreme care. The strain has not yet been found in Alberta, but Saskatchewan growers 60 miles southeast of Lloydminster experienced a severe outbreak last year.

Black leg first appeared in that province in 1976 when 10 fields were found to be infected. The following year there were 16, and by 1978 the disease had spread to 44 per cent of the rape fields in Saskatchewan. Last year this figure jumped to 55 per cent, which means that in only two years a minor disease had become a major one.

Dr. Horricks says Alberta does not need this kind of problem and recommends that rape growers protect themselves and their neighbors by keeping the disease out. How can this be done? By carefully checking the origin of all seed and by treating it with a fungicide containing benomyl or carbathiin, regardless of its origin. Dr. Horricks points out that black leg is a destructive fungus disease that is spread to new crops by the residue of diseased crops and by diseased seed.

-30-

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February 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 GRASSHOPPER FORECAST

The grasshopper population is expected to increase in many areas of Alberta this year unless we have cool, wet weather this spring and summer.

This forecast is based on a survey carried out last year by personnel from the federal research station at Lethbridge in co-operation with fieldmen in the counties and municipalities of southern Alberta. Warm, dry weather in many parts of the survey area during the late summer and early fall provided favorable conditions for grasshopper reproduction increase.



1980 Grasshopper Forecast Map

The grasshopper population in the province started to increase last year after having declined from 1974-78. The increase occurred north of the Bow and South Saskatchewan Rivers. South of these rivers, the population was lower than in 1978. Moderately infested areas showed up in small pockets within larger infested areas northeast of Lethbridge, northwest of Empress and on the Saskatchewan border southeast of Wainwright.

-30-

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February 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 DAIRY OUTLOOK

The two per cent increase in market share quota (MSQ), approved recently by the federal minister of agriculture, provide the Alberta dairy sector with further latitude to expand production says David Walker, head of Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch. The Alberta Dairy Control Board has already assured producers that they will not be subject to over-quota penalties during the current year.

The increase MSQ was recommended by the Canadian Dairy Commission's Canadian Milk Supply Management Committee to meet the increased demand for industrial milk by the cheddar cheese industry and a leveling off in the decline in butter consumption.

Although expansion in Alberta's total milk and cream production has not been sufficient to keep pace with both the rapid increase in fluid milk sales and supplies for industrial use, Mr. Walker says there is a basis for aniticipating some imorovement in this situation.

Changes in the aggregate farm milk supply result from the balance between higher production from existing and new producers and lower production brought about by dairymen having left the industry. During recent years pork and beef production, which compete most directly with dairy production has been particularly profitable but this competition is likely to lessen in 1980.

-(cont'd)-

1980 Dairy Outlook (cont'd)

At the present time hog returns are not favorable and the cattle cycle is at a stage when year-over-year increases in cattle prices are likely to be less marked because supplies will soon start to increase. Hence, the more favorable expansion conditions for dairy production are likely to attract more attention. The July 1, 1979 Statistics Canada Cattle Inventory Report indicates an expansion in dairy production. Alberta's dairy herds were reported to have increased by 3.3 per cent in 1979 compared with 1978. According to Mr. Walker, this was the first recorded increase in provincial dairy herds in a decade.

-30-

February 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 CANADIAN - NETHERLANDS YOUTH PROGRAM

Are you a young Canadian? Would you like to work in Europe? The Dutch authorities are offering practical farm training to Canadians and seasonal work in market gardens and food processing plants in the Netherlands.

There are three programs, each with slightly different eligibility criteria.

Program For Young Farmers

This program has been designed to enable young Canadian farmers to gain practical experience on a Dutch crop or dairy farm or in a market garden. The training period in the case of a farm is for four to seven months from March to October, and in the case of a market garden for eight to 12 months.

Applicants must be Canadian citizens, between the ages of 18 and 30; single;have completed their studies at an agricultural or horticultural institution, have had experience on a crop or dairy farm or in market gardening and be in good health. Those working on a farm will receive free board and lodging on the farm. Those working in a market garden will either recieve free board and lodging from their employer or with someone he has made arrangements with. Participants in this program will receive from $42 to $74 a week, depending upon experience and type of work.

Short-Term Program for Students of Agriculture

This program is designed to enable Canadian students of agriculture to gain practical work experience on a Dutch crop or dairy farm. The training period is two to four months from May to September.

Applicants must be Canadian citizens; least 18 years of age; single, enrolled as a student at an agricultural institution and in good health. They will be provided with free board and lodging at the farm and be paid about $45 a week.

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1980 Canadian - Netherlands Youth Program (cont'd)

Seasonal Work Program For Students

This program is designed to provide Canadian youth with an opportunity to work in a market garden or for the Dutch preserving industry. The training period is six weeks from mid-July to the end of September.

Applicants must be Canadian citizens; at least 18 years of age; single and enrolled as a student at a secondary or post-secondary educational institution. They will usually be provided with free board and lodging by their employer and will recieve the minimum wage in the Netherlands.

Further information and application forms for the three programs can be obtained from A.M. Leroi, Netherlands Vice-Consul for Emigration Affairs, P.O. Box 954, Station "A", Vancouver,

-30-

CORRECTION

The telephone number for Lee Harris in the article entitled "Federal-Provincial Livestock Exporting Seminar" (January 28 issue of Agri-News) is 427-4241; not 427-4291 as stated in the last paragraph of the article.

-30-

February 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HANDLING AND REPORTING STRAY LIVESTOCK

Did you know that you can now report the capture of stray livestock on your property to your district agriculturist if this is more convenient than reporting it to your local brand inspector or RCMP detachment? District agriculturists' office hours for this purpose are 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Ken Spiller, head of Alberta Agriculture's regulatory services, says the owner or occupier of any land onto which livestock have strayed should capture and confine them while they are on his land and before notifying the authorities. When reporting their capture, you should give as accurate a description of them as possible. It should include their color, sex, approximate age, brand, etc. You should also leave your name, address and telephone number and report the location of the land where the livestock are being confined. All stray livestock must be reported to one of the above authorities within 48 hours of their capture.

You can find the telephone numbers of brand inspectors and district agriculturists in your local telephone directory under Government of Alberta.

-30-

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February 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE - THE FIRST YEAR

by Earl Burns
Supervisor — Information Services, Farming For The Future

Alberta's agricultural community officially got a new friend last April, a companion that could provide numerous benefits over the next few years. This new friend is the Farming for the Future Research Program, and its stature has grown immensely after less than one year in operation.

Some Background

Research, when undertaken, generally exists in one of two major economic sectors: public and private. With respect to our agriculture industry, public research is often subdivided into three additional categories: provincial government, federal government and university. Although Farming for the Future was started on the initiative of only the provincial government, participation is invited from the whole research community.

And Some History

Farming for the Future was first announced in October 1977 by the minister of agriculture, the Honorable Marvin Moore. His vision was to create, funded by Alberta's forward-looking Heritage Savings Trust Fund, a program that would financially support agriculutral research and have direct benefits for Alberta producers. This funding was intended to supplement major projects already in place and to encourage new projects to be undertaken by existing research institutions.

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Farming For The Future — The First Year (cont'd)

In April 1978, Mr. Moore announced the formation of the Agricultural Research Council of Alberta which acts as administrator for Farming for the Future. The council now has 13 members, including active producers from across Alberta and representatives from both the research community and the provincial government.

One of the first duties required for the new council was to draw up guidelines for allocating funds. Special top priority areas were designated. These areas are crop and livestock research. Special emphasis was also placed on northern agriculture.

Following are the eight program categories:

- apiculture and entomology
- beef and dairy cattle and horses
- cereals and oilseeds
- forages
- land use and soils
- transportation, processing and marketing
- poultry, sheep and swine
- special crops

Any research proposal submitted is first classified according to category. Each is then assigned to the category's review committee, composed of experts in the particular field. After studying the project, the committee forwards its recommendation to the council. From almost 500 ideas and applications received to date, the committees and the council have approved 56 projects.

Where We Stand

Farming for the Future is currently authorized to spend up to $10 million over a five-year period that started April 1,1979. As the first year draws to a close, gross research funding for 1979-80 is almost $2 million.

The first 46 projects to be funded were reviewed and announced after an early 1979 meeting of the agricultural research council. The first moneys were then officially issued April 1, coinciding with the official start of the program. Since that time, the council has approved a further 10 projects at a meeting held just after Canada Day.

Farming For The Future – The First Year (cont'd)

Since many projects are expected to continue from two to five years, most are relatively assured of funding until they have been completed. Considering such 'obligations', the major portion of Farming for the Future's original $10 million research fund is now allocated.

What's Been Approved

In keeping with Farming for the Future's stated priority for crop and livestock research, 43 of the 56 projects so far fall in some way into these two areas. Crop studies– composed of three categories: forages, special crops and cereals and oilseeds– form the largest research focus. Animal health and nutrition consititute the other area where Farming for the Future studies are concentrated.

One area where the council had hoped for greater research emphasis was northern agriculture. While considerable response has been received, more is anticipated.

When Farming for the Future first began, an open invitation was extended to anyone wishing to submit a project proposal. This invitation still stands. However, as research needs have become further defined, the areas of emphasis are becoming more and more specific.

Besides northern agriculutre, categories where additional research appears to be needed are special crops, land use and soils, processing, transportation and marketing.

A Few Of The Projects

Alberta's short growing season has always been a major problem for agricultural producers. One of the keys to overcoming this disadvantage is the development of new plant varieties.

Within this area Farming for the Future has displayed special interest in developing soybean and safflower varieties which could be grown on both irrigated and dryland farms. A research scientist at Agiculture Canada's Lethbridge Research Station has recieved $43,000 to conduct a breeding program in this regard.

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Farming For The Future – The First Year (cont'd)

Another Agriculture Canada researcher located at the Beaverlodge Research Station is being supported in a program to breed barley varieties for the Peace River Region. The aim of this project is to produce a high-yielding, early-maturing variety that will become a reliable performer in that part of the province.

Abundant sunlight, inexpensive natural gas and readily available land have all fostered the expansion of Alberta's developing greenhouse industry. However, a recent survey identified several major disease and insect problems which now cost growers thousands of dollars each year.

To relieve some of this burden, Farming for the Future has awarded $42,000 to a plant pathologist at Alberta Agriculture's Horticulutral Research Center in Brooks to study four serious diseases of greenhouse crops. The first objective of the project is to determine how the diseases develop and spread. The second is to develop control measures using various chemical, biological and cultural techniques.

A researcher in this same field has received Farming for the Future funding to start a catalogue of greenhouse crop diseases. If such things as photos of diseased crops were in a form readily available to crop specialists and greenhouse operators, diseases might well be identified early enough to prevent their spreading to other parts of an afflicated greenhouse or even to other greenhouses.

Among the projects being funded are several that will attempt to identify and provide control measures for livestock diseases. For instance, there are two separate studies involving research into the effects of stress on cows and pigs. In the case of pigs, deaths caused by the stress of transportation from the farmgate to the packer annually rank among the heaviest costs to the hog industry.

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Farming For The Future — The First Year(cont'd)

Farming for the Future funding is supporting investigation in many areas. Honey bee over-wintering, soil fertility and potatoe breeding are just a few project areas where new funding may help provide major breakthroughs for our agriculture industry.

And From Here ...

This winter the Agricultural Research Council of Alberta will conduct its first annual appraisal of Farming for the Future research activities. In the case of many projects it is still too early to obtain any meaningful results. Research simply doesn't operate that fast.

However, enough data are available to give the council some idea of the effectiveness of its funding. Undoubtedly, some projects will be altered or scrapped. In some cases the need for a study will have disappeared. In others, research may have provided an answer quicker than was thought possible.

Beyond evaluating current projects, the council will also examine more than 100 new proposals recieved over the last eight months. Combined, these proposals represent a request for $5.5 million in additional research funding.

One problem the council could face is an impending lack of research dollars. Last year, although only a small proportion of the ideas and proposals submitted were approved, the council exhaused most of its available moneys. At this time, supporting new projects may depend on whether more funding is extended.

Regardless, Farming for the Future is well underway. In less that 12 months it has managed to fill many of the research gaps that previously hurt Alberta's agriculture industry. And during

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Farming For The Future — The First Year (cont'd)

the next four years of the five-year mandate, sketchy research results will yield to new measures for controlling crop and livestock problems, new plant varieties that will allow producers to take advantage of developing markets, and new agricultural practices which will augment a producer's income while saving him precious time.

Research by itself won't create a better agriculture industry. Only producers can do that by making use of the tools developed through research. And giving researchers the chance to develop these tools is the task Farming for the Future will continue to carry out.

PLEASE NOTE: This article will remain relevant through March 1980. An update covering approved second-year funding will be issued sometime after a mid-February meeting of the Agricultural Research Council of Alberta.

-30-

February 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GENERAL MANAGER OF ADMINISTRATION FOR ADC APPOINTED

L.C. Ordze, chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporation's (ADC) board of directors, is pleased to announce that George Suarez has been chosen for the position of general manager of administration.

Mr. Suarez will be located at the head office in Camrose and will be responsible for the administration, finance and loan administration sections. The activities covered by these sections include physical plant, loan disbursement, personnel and administrative services, collections, financial accounting, reporting and control.

As senior financial officer for the corporation, he will be directly responsible for ensuring that the corporation's financial systems are adequate to meet the requirements of the provincial auditor general and the Financial Administration Act. The portfolio presently being administered includes $200 million in debentures issued by ADC and purchased by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund; $168 million in direct loans outstanding; $51.5 million in specific guarantees outstanding and $181 million outstanding under the Alberta Farm Development Loan (AFDL).

Mr. Suarez has an M.B.A. and was a self-employed business management consultant before his present appointment. He was vice-president and national director of adminstration for a national and international public accounting and management consulting firm; vice-president of administration for a major commercial computer service company; director of administration, secretary and treasurer of the principal Canadian subsidiary of an international conglomerate with annal sales of $3.5 to $4 billion; and general manager and director of an aircraft sales and maintenance company.

-30-

February 11, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAD OF ANIMAL REPRODUCTION SECTION APPOINTED

Dr. H.B. Jeffery, head of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, has announced the appointment of Ernie Maynard to the position of head of the animal reproduction section. He replaces Dr. John Taylor who resigned to accept a position with the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture's animal industry branch.

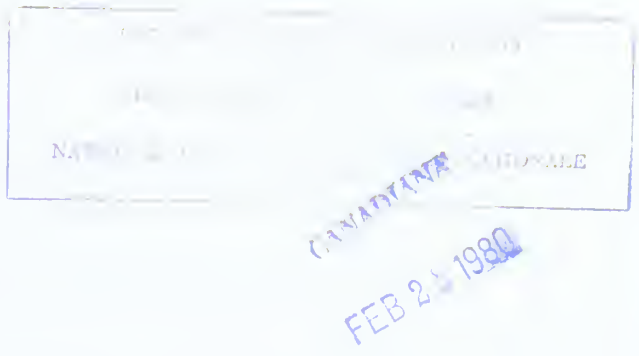
A native of Nova Scotia, Mr. Maynard attended the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. After graduating with a B.S.A. (animal science) in 1961, he joined the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture's livestock branch where he worked as sheep fieldman, dairy cattle supervisor and provincial livestock superintendent until his present appointment. During this period he took time out to complete a B.Ed. at Mount Allison University and an M.Sc. (animal breeding) at the University of Guelph.

Mr. Maynard has worked closely with the artificial insemination industry as director of the Nova Scotia Animal Breeders Co-op, as a member of their Holstein Sire Committee, as a director of the Canadian Association of Animal Breeders and as a member of their research committee. He has also been active in professional organizations as a member of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and the Canadian Society of Animal Science as past-president of the Nova Scotia Institute of Agrologists.

-30-

AGRI-NEWS

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February 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Five Alberta Firms Receive Assistance Under Nutritive Processing Agreement 1

New Dairy Incentive Program Announced. 2

Farm Management In The Extension Service. 4

Beef Cattle Outlook 6

Wheat Outlook 8

Rapeseed Outlook. 10

Buckwheat As An Alternative Grain In Growing Pig Rations 11

PSE Pork In Alberta 12

IBR Is Costing Some Dairymen Plenty 14

Agriculture - Our Renewable Resource? 15

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AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

February 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIVE ALBERTA FIRMS RECEIVE ASSISTANCE UNDER NUTRITIVE PROCESSING AGREEMENT

Five rural Alberta firms will receive assistance totalling $503,409 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement.

Northern Alberta Dairy Pool Ltd. will receive $225,371 to replace an existing milk processing plant by a new and larger one in Peace River. Fourteen new jobs are expected to be created, and the estimated total capital to be employed is $939,046.

South Edmonton Feed Mill Ltd. will receive $161,200 to enable it to construct a new feedmill at Calmar that has dryrolling, grinding and mixing capabilities. Nine new jobs are expected to be created, and the estimated total capital cost to be employed is $620,000.

St. Paul and District Co-operative Association Ltd. will receive $87,269 to construct a new shopping centre in St. Paul. The centre will include a bakery and a meat processing facility. Four new jobs are expected to be created, and the estimated total capital to be employed is $581,795.

Bassano Bread Basket Ltd. of Bassano will receive $20,143 to open a new bakery and coffee shop. United Feeds, a division of United Grain Growers in Innisfail, will receive $9,426 to enable it to modernize and expand its pet food manufacturing plant. Five full and part-time jobs are expected to be created by the firms, and the total estimated capital to be employed in the two projects is $127,704.

Elmer MacKay, federal minister of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture, announced the assistance to the five Alberta firms.

- 30 -

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February 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW DAIRY INCENTIVE PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Dallas Schmidt, has announced a $2 per hundredweight dairy incentive program that will go into effect on October 1, 1980. It is designed to help overcome winter fluid milk shortages that divert supplies from industrial milk processors to fluid milk sales.

The announcement was made in conjunction with the 1980 annual meeting of the Alberta Dairymen's Association in Edmonton.

According to Mr. Schmidt, the program is intended to promote increased production. The one-year incentive will be paid only on the production from October, 1980 to February, 1981 that exceeds production during the same period in 1979-80. All milk —fluid, industrial and cream shippers —will be eligible for the new program.

Part of the reason for developing the incentive comes from a lowering of milk production during winter months. When temperatures drop and the snow falls, cattle must come off pasture and go onto stored feed. This generally means lower production per cow.

"We have no overall shortage of fluid milk," says Jim Gylander, chairman of the Alberta Dairy Control Board. "But, there is some dislocation geographically."

He mentioned Edmonton as one example. Rising land prices in the area have led some dairy producers to sell, and beginning farmers have found the local land too expensive to buy. The reduced production becomes evident with the arrival of winter when local milk supplies cannot meet the city's needs.

Transferring bulk milk from the Red Deer region to Edmonton has made up this winter's shortfall. However, reducing the industrial milk supply has inconvenienced industrial milk processors. "It's tough on the cheese plants to lose some fluid milk, and

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New Dairy Incentive Program Announced (cont'd)

they have been co-operative, but Class 1 sales (consumer milk supplies) have priority," Mr. Gylander says.

It's a situation the Dairy Control Board chairman says he hopes the new program will correct in the upcoming year.

- 30 -

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February 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM MANAGEMENT IN THE EXTENSION SERVICE

by W. N. Bentley
Former District Agriculturist at Vermilion & Edmonton

Prior to my appointment as principal of the Vermilion School of Agriculture in 1945, I served in several positions with the Department of Agriculture which gave me an intimate knowledge of the agriculture extension programs.

Our agriculture extension activities at that time included, for example, the organization and conduct of junior livestock feeding clubs, junior seed production clubs, breeding stock distribution policies, farm machinery field days, cattle feeder associations, fertilizer demonstrations, farmstead planning meetings and a host of other specialized and compartmentalized subjects. Observations and discussions with several district agriculturists, including Fred Magera at Willingdon, George Godel at Athabasca, Fred Miller at Edmonton, and Bob Price at Stettler and members of the headquarters staff, led to recognition of the need for a more comprehensive approach to the 'business end' of farming.

When the School of Agriculture at Vermilion re-opened in 1945, I was determined to include farm management as a major subject in the curriculum. I had had no formal training in it, but being desperate for an alternative, I undertook to teach farm management myself. In Alberta, there was no precedent nor basic outline from which to develop farm management as a subject in the curriculum of a vocational course in agriculture.

A review of the field led me to invite Dr. Van Vliet, University of Saskatchewan; H. R. Hare, economics branch, Canada Agriculture and W. J. McLeod, farm loans officer, Mutual Life of Canada to propose an outline of their ideas for such a course. Their proposals were remarkably similar and were used as a basis for the formulation of the first course in farm management at the schools of agriculture.

Shortly after the introduction of farm management, several district agriculturists became interested in bringing it into their own extension program. Two topics were particularly popular: the keeping of farm accounts and the preparation of farm income tax returns.

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Farm Management In The Extension Service (cont'd)

One of the earliest introductions of a farm management component in an extension program was a series of 'workshops' organized by Fred Magera. He convened groups of eight to 15 farm people at several district points to study farm accounting as a preliminary to preparing their income tax returns. I provided sample accounting sheets and selected typical receipts and expense data. I then presided over the exercise of making the entries, and did the appropriate analysis for the income tax return --- all without the benefit of an electronic calculator.

Similar workshops were subsequently conducted in other areas and soon a broad interest in various aspects of farm management developed. A memorable occasion in this connection, for me at least, was a short course convened by the Department of Agriculture for all district agriculturists at the Olds School of Agriculture in the early 1950's where I served as the only instructor for a two and a half-day period.

I recall several noteworthy developments which evolved out of the introduction of farm management to the extension service. The farm accounts and data pertaining to the hog enterprise of Peter Wylie of Leduc were used at a series of farmers' meetings related to farm planning. Various projects concerning farm and home planning were first conducted, I believe, by Lloyd Rasmussen, district agruculturist at Lacombe, and George Godel at Athabasca. Shortly afterwards the agricultural economics branch was established, and farm management was made a major component of its program.

-30-

February 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEEF CATTLE OUTLOOK

A1 and A2 steers at Calgary are expected to average in the neighborhood of $80 per hundredweight for this quarter and between $80 and $85 per hundredweight in the second quarter. However, actual prices will be greatly influenced by the American market and by marketing patterns in the second quarter.

Bill Gray, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, reports that the Alberta Cattle on Feed Survey indicates first quarter slaughterings will total approximately 300,000 head, representing a drop of 9 per cent compared with first quarter slaughterings in 1979. The smaller volume means that provincial processors will again be operating well below capacity.

Alberta's steer slaughter in the first quarter of this year is estimated to total approximately 156,000 head, a decline of 3.3 per cent from the same period in 1979. Heifer slaughter is expected to decline to approximately 80,000 head, representing a drop of 20 to 25 per cent. Alberta's cow slaughter, estimated at 48,000 head, is forecast to remain the same or to increase slightly during this first quarter.

Rising slaughter cattle prices and a seasonal increase in demand during the first half of 1980 is expected to increase feeder prices. Mr. Gray says this year's barley acreage and yield will be one of the major factors that influences feeder prices during the second half of 1980. Although slaughter cattle prices are likely to decline to between $75 and $80 per hundredweight during the second half of 1980, in his opinion, lower barley prices could offset this situation, and, thereby, lend support to feeder prices.

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Beef Cattle Outlook (cont'd)

Canadian beef and veal production is expected to continue to decline in 1980 and consumption is expected to fall to about 85 pounds per capita. Reduced supplies during the rebuilding of Canada's beef herd and reduced imports will be the main contributors to this lower level of consumption. According to Mr. Gray, early signs indicate the rebuilding of breeding herds will be accomplished more through the retention of heifers than through the holding back of cows. The latter has been the pattern over the past two years.

-30-

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February 18. 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHEAT OUTLOOK

A serious weakening of wheat prices is not anticipated for the balance of the present crop year even though world wheat prices and Canadian Wheat Board offering prices may decline somewhat during this period.

Lynn Malmberg of Alberta Agriculture believes Vancouver and Thunder Bay offering prices are unlikely to fall below $185 per tonne during the remainder of the 1979-80 crop year. This means that net in store Thunder Bay and Vancouver selling prices for #1 CWRS wheat should average above $185 per tonne, which should make total realized prices for this crop year relatively good.

Mr. Malmberg thinks that the world wheat supply and demand balance is tight enough to prevent substantial price declines until at least July when world crop prospects will be better known. These will then become the dominant factor in pricing patterns.

Mr. Malmberg also believes that the American embargo against the U.S.S.R., as it relates to wheat, will have very limited effect on price. He points out that the 3 to 4 million-tonne embargo is very small when viewed in the context of a 1979-80 world production of 405 million tonnes. Prior to the embargo, that volume represented only about 9 per cent of expected total U.S. wheat exports of 38 million tonnes. Since the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has indicated that about one million tonnes of the embargoed wheat can be sold to other customers, it appears that the American 1979-80 wheat carryover will be increased to only about 26 million tonnes compared with the USDA's pre-embargo forecast of about 23 million tonnes and last year's carryover of approximately 25 million tonnes.

In the world context, the wheat supply and demand balance has changed little, according to Mr. Malmberg. He says Canada, Australia and Argentina will basically ship what

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Wheat Outlook (cont'd)

they had planned to ship and the small increase in the U.S. carryover will be insignificant in the world context. "I feel," he explains, "that 1980-81 production prospects will be a bigger factor in prices for the next six months than the American embargo. Poor winter wheat seeding conditions in the U.S. last fall has already led the USDA to forecast a reduction in that country's 1980 production. The Canadian Prairies remain dry and Australia needs rain before its 1980 crop is seeded."

- 30 -

Alberta
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February 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED OUTLOOK

Alberta rapeseed prices are forecast to surpass $310 per tonne at country elevators by mid-summer.

Lynn Malmberg, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, points out that while 1980-81 rapeseed export prices will be determined by world supply and demand, principally as they relate to U.S. soybeans, the spread between export and country prices could be reduced by about $25 per tonne. This factor plus a general tightening in the world oilseed supply and demand balance is expected to allow prices to surpass $310 per tonne.

Mr. Malmberg believes that a U.S. corn diversion scheme is almost certain and that this year's soybean acreage will remain almost unchanged compared with that of 1979. "We feel," he says, "that the market will act on the basis of average yields until at least mid-summer and that soybean and rapeseed prices should begin to increase in the near future -- perhaps about the end of February." He also thinks the July future could exceed $330 before it expires.

The total Canadian demand for rapeseed has increased sharply so far in the 1979-80 crop-year which began on August 1. Total crushing to date is about 12 per cent ahead of last year. At the beginning of January, total exports were 912 million tonnes, representing an increase of 37 per cent over the 1979 level.

Last year's Canadian rapeseed output was up by only an insignificant 64 thousand tonnes to a total of 3.56 million tonnes and the 1979-80 carryover will probably not be much higher than last year's 989 thousand tonnes.

- 30 -

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February 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BUCKWHEAT AS AN ALTERNATIVE GRAIN IN GROWING PIG RATIONS

Common buckwheat can be used as a replacement for barley or wheat in growing pig rations with little influence on gain, feed conversion or backfat thickness.

Studies carried out by University of Alberta plant scientists have shown that buckwheat gives similar gains to those obtained from barley or wheat when it is fed to pigs weighing between 20 and 60 kg as the only grain in a ration containing 16 per cent protein. The feed to gain ratio was also found to be similar to that obtained from the barley and wheat-fed animals.

A combination of buckwheat and either barley or wheat substituted in the ratio of 25:75, 50:50 or 75:25 for the cereal grain gave satisfactory gains, feed consumption and feed/kg gain in the 20 to 60 kg pigs.

The gross energy in buckwheat was found to be 68 per cent digestible and the crude protein was found to be 74 per cent digestible.

Hence, the practicality of using buckwheat as a replacement for barley or wheat in the rations of growing pigs will depend upon the cost of the buckwheat compared with the cost of barley or wheat.

-30-

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February 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSE PORK IN ALBERTA

With our increased selection of a meatier-type hog, it appears that the incidence of pale soft exudative (PSE) pork could become a major economic concern in Alberta. This concern is growing rapidly among animal scientists, food scientists and meat industry personnel.

Aproximately 21 per cent of about 9,600 hog carcasses surveyed at an Edmonton packing plant between January and July of 1978 by University of Alberta animal scientists showed a high probability of becoming PSE. The scientists claimed that a carcass has a relatively high probability of developing this condition in a given muscle if the pH is below 6 when the animal has been dead for 45 minutes. About 2,000 of the carcasses surveyed had a pH of less than 6.

There are apparently many factors that may have been responsible for the relatively large number of carcasses found to have a pH value below 6. However, stress prior to slaughter is the most common cause. The stress state of an animal depends upon its susceptibility to stress, which is determined by its genetic makeup, and the number of stress situations to which it is subjected prior to slaughter. These include climatic and seasonal conditions.

It was found that time of year had a significant effect upon the pH level of the hog carcasses surveyed. For example, the percentage of carcasses with a pH below 6 increased from a low of 11.7 per cent in January to a high of 40.5 per cent in July. The average carcass temperature 45 minutes after slaughter increased from 39.8°C in January to 40.5°C in June and July.

According to the scientists, a decreased pH combined with an increased carcass temperature tends to increase the destruction of muscle protein. This, in turn, can increase the onset of rigor mortis and the chances of lower quality meat.

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PSE Pork In Alberta (cont'd)

Although the hogs surveyed had been raised in a heated barn, the enviromental temperatures to which they were exposed during transit and while being held prior to slaughter may have contributed to the variations in carcass characteristics observed between January and July.

Approximately 3 per cent of the carcasses surveyed had a pH value of above 6.5 after they had been cooled overnight. The meat from such carcasses tends to be hard, firm and dry and to have a sticky texture. It is known as DFD meat and is more susceptible to microbial spoilage than normal meat.

-30-

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February 18. 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IBR IS COSTING SOME DAIRYMEN PLENTY

It appears that some Alberta dairymen are becoming too complacent about infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR), and that their complacency is costing them plenty of money.

Dr. F. P. Baker, beef cattle extension veterinarian, reports that this disease, which was once pretty well controlled by vaccination, is being diagnosed fairly frequently these days at provincial diagnostic laboratories. He says that a number of serious and costly outbreaks have occurred in dairy herds as a result of the introduction of breeding stock from other provinces. In one dairy herd in central Alberta, for example, the owner lost several days of milk and ended up with eight abortions and nine dead cows!

According to Dr. Baker, IBR manifests many symptoms, but respiratory distress and aborted calves are the two main ones. He stresses that the vaccination of a cow herd does not give permanent protection against the disease as many livestockmen erroneously believe. It may be necessary to revaccinate. According to Dr. Baker this necessity will vary from one area of the province to another and even from one farm to another.

He strongly recommends that all replacement cattle, whether purchased or home-reared, should be vaccinated, and that the vaccination status of all animals that are purchased should be checked before they are allowed to come in contact with the herd.

"Don't take any chances," says Dr. Baker, "Consult your veterinarian about the vaccination requirements of your herd before you too suffer financially from this very costly disease."

- 30 -

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February 18, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURE - OUR RENEWABLE RESOURCE?

by D.C. Penney
Supervisor, Soil Fertility, Alberta Agriculture

Can we accept the slogan "Agriculture - Our Renewable Resource"? If agriculture is a renewable resource in the true sense of the word, the size and productivity of the agricultural land base must be maintained. With this in mind, let's look at what has happened since farming began in Alberta.

If we look only at crop yields and total crop production, we see no cause for concern. Yields and total crop production have gradually increased. Yields have increased because of improved varieties, weed control and fertilization. The land base has expanded with the development of new land in northern and western regions and irrigation has expanded in southern Alberta. However, these positive trends do not give a true picture of what has and is happening to our soil resources. On the negative side we are losing some of our best land to urban expansion, large acreages of land are being lost due to salinity and the native productivity of many of our soils is declining. The important question is, how serious are these factors that are adversely affecting our agricultural land base?

Urban Expansion

The amount of land being lost to urbanization is not large in relation to the total agricultural land base, but, much of what is being lost is prime agricultural land. Only one per cent of Alberta's land is in Class 1 on a scale in which classes 1 to 4 are considered arable. Unfortunately much of our class 1 land is adjacent to areas of rapid urban growth.

Salinization

Salt has seriously reduced or eliminated crop production on about 500,000 acres of land in Alberta (about half on irrigated soil and half on dryland). Much of southern and east-central Alberta is prone to salinization because of the saline nature of the subsoils. Irrigation and frequent summerfallowing have caused the watertable to rise and bring salts to the surface.

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Agriculture - Our Renewable Resource (cont'd)

Decline in Native Soil Productivity

In contrast to the trend toward increasing crop yields, a decline in the quality of soils in the Prairie region of Western Canada has been well documented. Organic matter levels in the Brown, Dark Brown and Black soils have declined by about 40 percent. In the case of the Black soils, this loss of organic matter is equal to a reduction in soil nitrogen resources of about 5,000 pounds per acre. This reduction in soil nitrogen has not been reflected in crop yields, but is a factor in the recently observed decline in wheat protein. The practice of summer-fallowing has been a major contributor to this decline in the organic matter and nitrogen status of Prairie soils.

Another factor affecting the productivity of soils in Alberta is acidity. About 6 million acres of land in the province are affected to some extent by excess acidity. With conventional cropping practices, the productivity of these soils will gradually decline unless they are limed.

Changes in soil quality in the Prairie regions of Western Canada have occurred quite rapidly since cultivation, and the significance of these changes should not be taken lightly. If removal of plant nutrients (i.e. nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium) by cropping is greater than the amount being replaced by fertilizers, crop residues, manure and the weathering of soil minerals, the soil resource is being depleted and essentially functioning, in the long-term, as a nonrenewable resource. In Prairie soils a serious depletion of nitrogen has occurred because summerfallowing has allowed crop production without the addition of this nutrient. It can be argued that our Prairie soil contains more organic matter and nitrogen than required to maintain a good quality, stable agricultural soil. While this may be true in some cases, it does not alter the fact that we cannot continue to produce crops without replacing the nitrogen that is removed. Crop-fallow rotations rely almost entirely on a depleting resource (soil organic matter) as a source of nitrogen for crop production.

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Agriculture - Our Renewable Resource?

Because summerfallowing has been implicated as a major cause of declining soil quality, practical alternatives must be developed. Dr. Don Rennie, head of the Soil Science Department at the University of Saskatchewan, recently stated that the development of soil management techniques to improve moisture use efficiency, and, thereby reduce the need for summerfallow is a major research challenge.

Summerfallow plays a very important role in crop production in the Prairie region. In some instances farmers must summerfallow because of inadequate soil moisture reserves, but in many others farmers summerfallow because it is the best economic alternative. The grain quota system is based on both the seeded and summerfallow acreage. In many cases farmers summerfallow to obtain sufficient quota to pay for input costs. If we are going to make progress toward reducing the summerfallow acreage, we must first remove the incentive to fallow provided by the grain quota system.

Soil is indeed a renewable resource in the context that, if properly managed, it will remain productive indefinitely. However, evidence of declining soil quality suggests that we must improve some of our soil management practices in order to justify the slogan, "Agriculture - Our Renewable Resource"

-30-

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AGRI-NEWS

February 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Chief Executive Officer Of Alberta Terminals Limited Appointed 1

Alfalfa Production in the 80's 2

Alberta Hail Suppression Project To Continue 3

Thematic Displays (Jubilee Series) 5

Grain Embargo And Gasohol Discussed at Montana Farm Forum 7

Grain Heating Caused By Fungi 10

Federal-Provincial Nutritive Processing AgreementTo Be Extended 11

Vitavax RS Flowable Rapeseed Treatment 12

Avoid Introducing New Weed Seeds 13

1980 CACA Weed Fair 14

Tillage Seminar Scheduled for Stettler 15

Agricultural Societies Hold Workshop and Annual Meeting 16

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Alberta
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

February 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF ALBERTA TERMINALS LIMITED APPOINTED

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Dallas W. Schmidt, has announced the appointment of Earl H. Scharf to the position of chief executive officer of Alberta Terminals Limited. Mr. Scharf was construction manager of the commercial and industrial division of Underwood McLellan Limited in Winnipeg prior to his present appointment.

Alberta Terminals Limited, owned by the Government of Alberta, was established last November in order to take over the three federal government grain elevators in Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge. It will be operated and administered as a private company with one of its purposes to provide Alberta grain markets with facilities that encourage competition and fair market access for all producers, and, thereby, play a vital role in the enhancement of producer incomes. Other members of the board of directors, yet to be appointed by Mr. Schmidt, will be drawn from representatives across the province to provide policy direction for the operation of the company.

Mr. Scharf brings to his position a wealth of experience in related fields, including management of the grain terminal in Churchill, Manitoba. In addition to overseeing the efficient operation of Alberta Terminals Limited, his terms of reference include implementing policies and providing recommendations to the board of directors on such major issues as the multi-million dollar upgrading required for the three terminals during the next several years.

Key objectives of Alberta Terminals Limited include the maintenance of the elevators as delivery points for futures contracts sold on the Winnipeg commodity exchange, thus enhancing the opportunities of Alberta farmers to improve their income. Another major objective is to increase the volume of grain processed through the terminals to help to meet the urgent requirement of increasing Canada's west coast grain exports.

- 30 -

Alberta
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February 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALFALFA PRODUCTION IN THE 80'S

A seminar on "Alfalfa Production in the 80's" is scheduled to take place in the Sportex Building in Donnelly on February 29.

Following is a list of some of the topics and speakers:

. Time of Cutting and Alfalfa Survival by Dr. J. McKenzie, Agriculture Canada, Beaverlodge.

. Soil Problems and Liming by A. Hennig, Agriculture Canada, Beaverlodge; and Doug Penny Alberta Agriculture, Edmonton.

. New Varieties by Dr. P. Pankiw , Agriculture Canada, Beaverlodge.

. New Concepts in Weed Control by Dr. L. Darwent, Agriculture Canada, Beaverlodge.

. New Inoculants and Application Methods by Dr. W. Rice, Agriculture Canada, Beaverlodge.

. New Seed Treatments and Pest Control by Dr. J. Davidson, Agriculture Canada, Beaverlodge.

The agenda also includes a question period. Copies of the revised publication "Alfalfa Production in the Peace River Region" will be available at the seminar, which is being sponsored by Falher Alfalfa and NAAL, two alfalfa pellet plants in Falher, as well as by Agriculture Canada in Beaverlodge and Alberta Agriculture.

The registration fee of $6 should be made payable to the M.D. of Smoky River. It is to cover the cost of the meal, and the seminar organizers ask prospective participants to send their remittance and their name and telephone number immediately to Alberta Agriculture, Box 90, Falher, Alberta, TOH 1MO.

- 30 -

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February 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HAIL SUPPRESSION PROJECT TO CONTINUE

Alberta's minister of agriculture, Dallas Schmidt, has announced that the Alberta Hail Suppression Project will be continued and given an expanded role in weather modification research in the province.

The announcement comes after an extensive government review of the project following completion of its mandate.

"Hail suppression has long been a desired aim in Alberta," said the agriculture minister. "For the past few years we've conducted ongoing research in this area, and the results we've seen to date have appeared quite promising."

Established in 1974 with a five-year mandate, the provincial hail suppression project was granted a 12-month extension in September 1978 to allow a final report to be drafted. The report was tabled in the legislature last November.

"The project results, though promising, could also be interpreted as just a long-term variation in Alberta's climatic pattern," said Mr. Schmidt.

"To some extent that's why we have decided to continue the project. We want to see if the trends that indicate reduced hail damage will actually hold up over the longer term.

"That decision also remains in line with the aim of the original program — to reduce the hail that can strike with such devastating force in various agricultural areas of the province."

Under the new guidelines, the Research Council of Alberta will replace Alberta Agriculture as the administrative overseer of the weather modification program. A board that advises the minister will be retained.

Subcommittees will also be created to act as advisory bodies on the three major disciplines of the revised project: rain increase, snowpack improvement and hail suppression.

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Alberta Hail Suppression Project To Continue (cont'd)

The first two items are new elements being introduced, said the minister. Both have resulted through expanding the scope of weather modification beyond the previous target region of central Alberta.

The first addition, a ground generator system, will attempt to increase rainfall in the areas east and south of Calgary. Preliminary planning on this phase will begin immediately, said Mr. Schmidt.

The second element, snowpack improvement, is an attempt to increase snowfall in those areas that feed spring run-off on the eastern slopes.

"We hope this will benefit Alberta producers by guaranteeing adequate water sources for agriculture," Mr. Schmidt said. This will also aid our overall water management in the southern part of the province."

The final element, hail suppression, provided much of the data produced in the original project. As before, an aircraft cloud-seeding operation will be concentrated in a 120-mile wide, elongated area centred on Red Deer – the so-called capital of Alberta's hail belt.

Funding for the revised program has not yet been decided, according to Mr. Schmidt. However, the minister said it is unlikely any new commitment will be less than that appropriated in years past. The project's operating budget for the fiscal year 1979-80 is $2.2 million.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THEMATIC DISPLAYS

by Fred Bell
Former District Agriculturist at Drumheller and Calgary



The Craigmyle Junior Grain Club's first prize display at the Drumheller Junior Seed Fair in 1947

Among the visitors to the 1945 District Achievement Day in Drumheller, was Don McLean, representing Line Elevators, Winnipeg. Mr. McLean was keenly interested in the entire event, but especially in the decoration of the tables on which the wheat was displayed.

He told us that in Manitoba some, but not all, grain clubs used that space and decoration to tell a story, such as the advantages of using pure seed, farm safety, the advantages of keeping a reserve of seed and feed on hand, etc., etc. He had a number of transparencies that he said he would lend us a little later in the season. These transparencies arrived in February 1946 when Henry F. Irwin, newly appointed fieldman for Starland, M.D. was in our office. As we examined the transparencies Mr. Irwin said "These are thematic displays." We both liked the idea. I liked the name suggested by Mr. Irwin.

I wrote to George S. Black, the then newly appointed supervisor of junior clubs,

- (cont'd) -

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Thematic Displays (cont'd)

asking his approval for the use of thematic displays as a part of our club program. Mr. Black approved of the plan, but did not think that either club members or the public would approve of the name. However, he did not suggest any other name.

We adopted the idea, and used the name that Mr. Irwin had suggested, but left the matter optional for the clubs. Prizes were offered for the best decorative exhibit, of course. Any judge would be partial to decorations that carried a message over one that had no useful meaning. Every club adopted the idea and we heard no complaints about the name. In fact, the public seemed to like it.

In 1946 we had nine clubs competing, and all used thematic displays. The idea spread to other clubs across the province and then across other provinces. The "A" circuit fairs featured it. At that time the interprovincial competitions were held at Regina each year and the top displays from Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Brandon competed there. It seemed strange that, while the idea came to us from Manitoba, it was not until we named it and developed it to a very high standard that Manitoba finally adopted it.

Thematic displays became an important feature in 4-H work and served a very useful purpose in developing original items, and in demonstrating them.

- 30 -

February 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAIN EMBARGO AND GASOHOL DISCUSSED AT MONTANA FARM FORUM

The American grain embargo and the great strides that are being made in the United States to produce fuel from grains were two of the topics discussed at the 16th annual farm forum in Montana.

Allen Toly, district agriculturist at Claresholm, was among the Albertans who attended the forum. He reports that Dr. Kelly Harrison, general sales manager for the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service, stated that the 17 million tonnes of grain under suspension were not affecting prices in the United States as severely as had been anticipated. The American Commodity Credit Corporation has started to assume the contracts of grain companies that had purchased 13 million tonnes of corn, wheat and soybeans for sale to the U.S.S.R. This grain will be released gradually on to the market to minimize price fluctuations.

Wheat, which makes up 4 of the 13 million tonnes, will be bought up by the Commodity Credit Corporation and put into storage for shipment later under the American food aid program.

The USDA anticipates that 9 of the 17 million tonnes of grain will still get to the U.S.S.R. through indirect means, and points out that the corn shortage in that country that resulted from the embargo will translate into 4 per cent less meat. This situation will temporarily slow down the U.S.S.R.'s goal to produce more red meat.

Grain prices in the U.S. are apparently back up to the pre-suspension level, but the USDA is formulating plans to reduce the corn and wheat acreage by a paid diversion program. However, in view of strengthening prices, such a program may not be necessary.

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Grain Embargo and Gasohol Discussed at Montana Farm Forum (cont'd)

According to Dr. Harrison, the cost to each American taxpayer to spread the grain burden will be $7, but some farmers will obviously be harder hit. However, they will be able to take out an interest-free loan on their stored grain until January 1981. Some farmers may choose to put their grain into a reserve program through the Agricultural Stabilization Program.

The Americans are making every effort to find alternative markets for their grain and are investigating the possibility of China taking a greater volume than had originally been planned.

Mr. Toly says that Bob Soleta, director of the Energy Management Service for the Professional Farmers of America, outlined some of the strides being made in the production of fuel from grains. The latter believes that agriculture has a major role to play in the production of farm fuel for industry.

It appears that about 2.5 gallons of ethanol can be produced from a bushel of corn, barley or wheat without affecting the quality of by-products used for livestock supplements. These by-products can increase the overall value of a bushel of grain by approximately $1.

Mr. Soleta reported to the forum that tax incentives are being provided by federal and state agencies to encourage gasohol (ethanol plus gasoline) production, and that Iowa is the leading state in this technology. In the United States grain ethanol costs $1.50 per gallon compared with $1.15 for gasoline, and it makes up 10 per cent of the gasohol mixture. However, Brazil, the leader in gasohol utilization, is reported to be planning to go to straight alcohol by 1985.

About 25 engineering firms in the United States are currently working on producing ethanol from grain. Mr. Soleta visualizes the installation of small distilling units on farms

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Grain Embargo and Gasohol Discussed at Montana Farm Forum (cont'd)

that will convert the owner's and his neighbor's grain into ethanol. In fact, low-cost distilling units are already coming on stream in the United States. A unit of this type costs $54,000 and will process 200 bushels a day or around 500 gallons of ethanol. Community centred distilleries are apparently more expensive, averaging out at $1.50 per gallon of capacity. There is a $21 per gallon tax on beverage alcohol in the United States, but there is no tax on power grade grain ethanol.

Mr. Soleta says he sees agriculture with its renewable capacity making the United States self-sufficient in fuels, and, at the same time, increasing his country's grain processing industry.

- 30 -

CORRECTION

The article entitled "Farm Management in the Extension Service" was by N. N. Bentley, former district agriculturist at Vermilion and Edmonton; not W.N. Bentley as stated.

- 30 -

February 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAIN HEATING CAUSED BY FUNGI

Alberta Agriculture's pest control specialist, Michael Dolinski, says there is a considerable amount of grain heating in the south of the province, and that the heating cannot be controlled with an insect fumigant because it is being caused by fungi.

He says that this type of heating can only be controlled by augering the grain out of the bin to cool it down and to break up the hot spots. If it contains no insects, it can be augered back into the bin. However, if insects are present, Mr. Dolinski recommends treating the grain with malathion dust, registered for use on stored grain, while the grain is being augered back into the bin. Although the liquid form of malathion for stored grain beetles will also kill the beetles, its drawback is that it will increase the moisture in the grain.

A phosphine fumigant can be used when the grain temperature is above 5° C. It dissipates in about a week, while malathion remains active for approximately eight to 10 months. There is no restriction on marketing or feeding fumigated grain, but it takes a week to work. Grain that has been treated with malathion cannot be marketed or fed to livestock for seven days.

Mr. Dolinski believes that the long period of warm weather last fall plus the convection currents in the increasing number of large steel bins that are being used to store grain are responsible for the heating of grain that was binned with a low moisture content last fall. The convection currents can concentrate the normal level of moisture in the top two feet of the grain, especially in bins that are filled to capacity. There is then no room for air circulation. The two feet of moisture create an ideal environment for the growth of fungi and for the multiplication of beetles, both of which lead to heating.

- 30 -

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February 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL NUTRITIVE PROCESSING AGREEMENT TO BE EXTENDED

The Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement, which was to have been terminated on March 31 of this year, has been extended to September 30, 1980.

Cost shared equally by the federal Department of Regional Economic Expansion and Alberta Agriculture, the agreement was established in 1975 to help firms to locate, expand or modernize their nutritive processing facilities in rural Alberta. A nutritive product is one that is suitable for plant, animal or human consumption.

All future applications for assistance under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Processing Agreement must be received by Alberta Agriculture before August 1, 1980 to allow enough time for them to be processed before the agreement is discontinued.

- 30 -

Alberta
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February 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VITAVAX RS FLOWABLE RAPESEED TREATMENT

There has been some question on what rape growers should do with the dual purpose fungicide-insecticide Vitavax RS Flowable that they have left over from last year. This point is clarified by the following statement received by Alberta Agriculture from an official of Uniroyal Ltd., the manufacturer and distributor of this product.

"If you have any Vitavax RS Flowable left over from last year make sure it is well agitated or stirred and is reconstituted into a very uniform mixture. If it has been frozen during winter storage this may be more difficult to accomplish. Make sure the product is brought to room temperature before using. Follow label instructions fully."

- 30 -

Alberta
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Phone (403) 427-2127

February 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVOID INTRODUCING NEW WEED SEEDS

Did you know that dealers who sell graded (registered, certified, etc.) seed are required by law to produce a seed testing certificate, if requested to do so, that states the type and number of weed seeds in the lot.

Walter Yarish of Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch urges farmers to buy graded seed and to request to see this certificate so that they can avoid introducing new weeds on to their land. He explains that different types of grain and different grades of grain are allowed to contain different weed seeds.

A lot of registered No.2 barley, for example, is allowed by law to contain two seeds of hemp nettle, corn spurry, knawel, lamb's-quarters and scentless mayweed for every 500 grams (about one pound) of seed. However, this does not mean that every lot of registered No.2 barley does contain two seeds of each of these weed species. If you have not already got one or more of these species, you should buy a lot of seed that does not contain them. Only in this way can you avoid introducing new weeds to your farm.

- 30 -

Alberta
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February 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 CACA WEED FAIR

The Canadian Agricultural Chemicals Association (CACA), in consultation with Alberta Agriculture, will sponsor three weed fairs in March to help farmers to decide which of the many available chemical and tillage techniques they should use and under what circumstances.

The first fair will be held in the Lewis Hawkes Pavilion at the exhibition grounds in Grande Prairie on March 11. The second will be held in the drill hall in Camrose on March 17, and the third will be held at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks on March 19. The three fairs will start at 10 a.m. and finish at 4 p.m.

What does a weed fair consist of? It consists of numerous booths set up by chemical manufacturing and retailing companies and sprayer equipment manufacturers to display their products. The three fairs mentioned above will also include seminars at which government extension personnel will talk about crop production techniques and commodity group representatives will speak about growing and marketing crops.

CACA is an association of chemical manufacturers and retailers which co-ordinates the activities of individual companies that take part in projects like the weed fair. The association also speaks on behalf of agriculture when dealing with government and consumer concerns related to the use of agricultural chemicals.

Further information on the weed fairs can be obtained from Randy Baldwin, May and Baker Canada Inc., 323, 1147 - 17 Avenue S.W. Calgary (Telephone: 245-3148).

- 30 -

Alberta
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February 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TILLAGE SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR STETTLER

A one-day tillage management seminar will be held at the Memorial Hall in Stettler on March 13. It will start at 10 a.m.

Wayne Lindwall of the federal research station at Lethbridge will discuss the concepts of zero-tillage, minimum tillage, continuous cropping and chemical fallow.

Dr. A. O'Sullivan of the federal research station at Lacombe will talk about weed control; Murray Green of Alberta Agriculture will outline the machinery requirements for the various tillage practices; and John Timmermans of Western Co-op Fertilizers will discuss fertilization.

The agenda will conclude with a producer panel whose participants will discuss their experiences with the tillage practices mentioned above.

The registration fee for the seminar is $10 (includes lunch) and the registration deadline is March 11. Pre-registration is necessary so that luncheon arrangements can be made. Cheques should be made payable to the Agricultural Education Trust Account, and they should be mailed to Alberta Agriculture, Postal Bag 600, Stettler, TOC 2LO.

For further information on the tillage management seminar, contact your district agriculturist or the district extension office in Stettler (Telephone: 742-4481).

- 30 -

Alberta
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Communications Division

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February 25, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES HOLD WORKSHOP AND ANNUAL MEETING

The Alberta Association of Agricultural Societies will hold a two-day workshop, followed by its 32nd annual meeting, at the Convention Inn South, 4404 Calgary Trail, Calgary, on March 4, 5 and 6.

Highlights of the agenda will include a leadership training program presented by the Rural Education Development Association and a presentation by the Volunteer Action Bureau on "How to Get and Keep Good Volunteers." Among the other topics that will be covered are grants from Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Culture, fire protection and farm safety. There will also be a talk by Bob Dowling, chairman of the 75th Anniversary Committee for the Province.

Dallas Schmidt will be the guest speaker at the banquet on Wednesday evening, which will be followed by a dance.

The registration fee for the three days will be only $15. It will cover all meals, but delegates will be responsible for their own hotel and travel expenses.

It is hoped that all agricultural societies in the province will send delegates to both the workshop and the annual meeting. Each society is allowed one voting delegate at the annual meeting, but as many delegates as wish may attend in a non-voting capacity.

District agriculturists and district home economists are also invited to attend the workshop and the annual meeting as it is felt that it will provide them with a good opportunity to meet delegates from many of the province's agricultural societies and to exchange ideas and solutions to problems.

Everybody planning to attend the workshop and/or the annual meeting is asked to pre-register by telephoning 427-2171.

- 30 -

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AGRI-NEWS

March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

A Committee to Review All Aspects of Hog Marketing in Alberta 1

D.A. Flashback - 30 Years Ago (Jubilee Series) 2

Hog Outlook 5

The Canadian Dollar And Agricultural Commodity Prices. 6

Barley Outlook 7

New Publications. 8

Which Type Of Hay Is The Best Value? 9

Immunity In the Newborn Calf 11

Grains And Oilseeds Market Outlook Conference 14

Livestock Merchandizing Symposium At Olds. 15

Combine Clinics Scheduled For Rycroft And Falher. 16

Blackfly Seminar 17

Obtaining And Managing Credit In the 1980's. 18

Agri-Business Supervisor 19

ADC Loans Officer For Lethbridge And Taber Region 20

Regional Food And Nutrition Specialist Appointed For Northern Alberta 21

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March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF HOG MARKETING IN ALBERTA

Dallas Schmidt, Minister of Agriculture, has announced his intention to establish a committee under the authority of the Department of Agriculture Act to review all aspects of hog marketing in Alberta.

While details have not yet been finalized, the committee will consist of an independent chairman and representatives from Alberta swine producers and meat processors. It will be directed to accept submissions from all relevant parties.

The minister also authorized the following statement:

"Recent events have resulted in the provincial hog industry reaching a state of turmoil. The combination of lower market prices and the recent expansion in pork production in Alberta has led to increasing tensions between the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board and major hog packers in the province.

"The result has been lower sales for producers and lower supplies for the packers. Layoffs have been reported. Many producers are now facing financial difficulties by not having ready access to normal markets.

"This turmoil will lead us to a breakdown of the open and competitive marketing system I consider necessary for Alberta's hog production and meat packing industries to grow and thrive."

- 30 -

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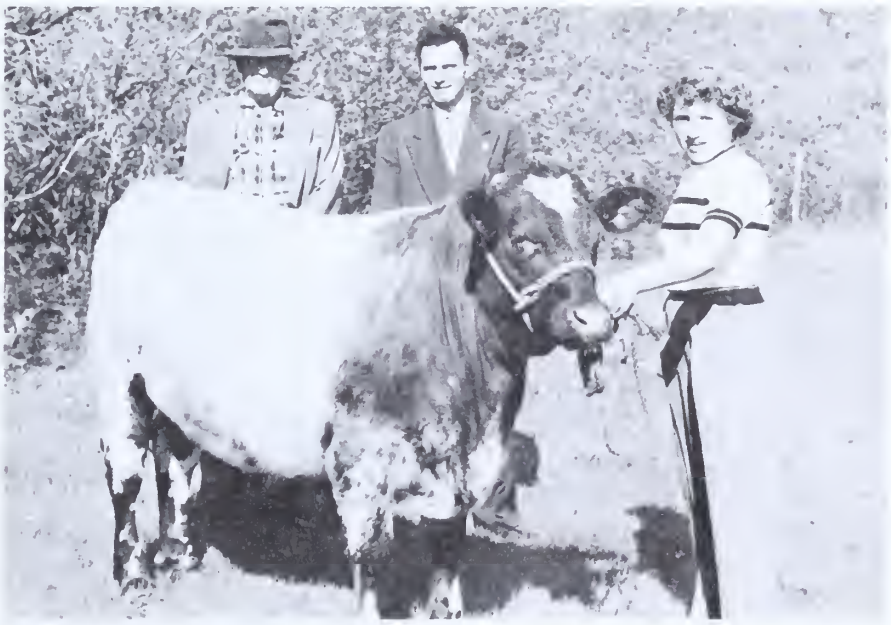
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March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

D.A. FLASHBACK - 30 YEARS AGO

by Joe Gurba
Head of Alberta Agriculture's Crop Protection and Pest Control Branch



Sunday afternoon 4-H Showmanship Training at Jack Youzwyshyn's farm in the Spring of 1952. Wm. Cornish (left), stockman and M.L.A.; Joe Gurba, D.A.; and Iris Youzwyshyn, 4-H Club member with her prize Shorthorn calf.

I look back at my D.A. work in 1950-53 as some of the best years of my life.

As a new agricultural graduate in the spring of 1950, I spent about eight months getting practical extension training under W. Pidruchney, D.A. at Vegreville. In February 1951, I became a rookie D.A. at Myrnam in the M.D. of Eagle and ready to change the farming world.

My first 'mistake' was with junior (now 4-H) clubs. I thought it would be a good way for a stranger to get acquainted while business was slack. I didn't realize the enthusiasm, tremendous search for knowledge and the need for social action in the community. Soon there were some 14 clubs in grain, beef and garden projects, mostly with new leaders requiring

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D.A. Flashback - 30 Years Ago (cont'd)

evening meetings, weekend tours and field days. We learned together and had fun while my wife, Ramona, became a "grass widow" for the next few years.

The M.D. of Eagle agricultural service board was one of the most progressive in the province. I was also lucky to have the help of two "crackerjack" agricultural fieldmen. We operated projects in soil conservation, trash farming, weed control, cattle warbles, coyotes, shelterbelt and farmstead tree planting, new crop varieties, forage for hay and pasture, etc. A highlight of this co-operative spirit was the organization and construction of the municipal co-op seed cleaning plant at Myrnam.

Balanced farming was a new concept. The more innovative farmers developed farm plans which included crop rotations with forage, a matching livestock program and farm budgets and records to analyze which activities made or lost money.

Government loan bulls and boars were used in new communities. Along with department grants for buying breeding stock and 4-H clubs, they helped to improve the livestock.

I was fortunate in having veteran D.A.'s in the adjoining districts of Vegreville, Vermilion, St. Paul and Willingdon. Together we ran farm short courses, field days and educational tours. The Vagreville and Vermilion summer fairs were used for educational displays, junior camps and achievement days.

In addition to successes, I can recall some real bloopers:

I had spoken at a short course on balanced minerals in hog rations but apparently did not sufficiently explain the role of ground limestone. One farmer mixed builder's lime in his hog feed and lost about a dozen hogs. I was lucky he charged it up to experience.

Farm labor was scarce and so was a D.A.'s cash at $200 per month. I used some holiday time to drive to a friend's team on the threshing crew. As the ladies served afternoon coffee, I turned too sharply and upset the load of bundles just short of the threshing machine.

- (cont'd) -

D.A. Flashback - 30 Years Ago (cont'd)

My leadership rating declined considerably, but I certainly got attention.

I remember the dozens of volunteers as 4-H club leaders and supporters, farmers who provided land and effort for test plots, ladies who always had an endless supply of sandwiches and refreshments, the MLA who kept politics separated from volunteer 4-H work by insisting he was "Farmer Bill," etc. There was no limit to the kindness and generosity of hundreds of town and country people to myself and my wife, both at Myrnam and throughout the district from Two Hills to Derwent. We felt a close part of the community, its problems, its plans and its aspirations.

There is no greater satisfaction than to meet these people 30 years later, to recall the good, old days and to try to recognize the teenagers of those days, many of whom are the successful farmers, teachers, councillors, businessmen and technical and professional people of today.

- 30 -

March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOG OUTLOOK

Alberta Agriculture's hog outlook anticipates that 100 index hogs will average in the neighborhood of $54 per hundredweight at Edmonton during the first quarter of this year. Unless the volume declines on a seasonally adjusted basis during March and April, prices during that period are likely to fall below $54 per hundredweight.

Bill Gray, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture, expects hog prices to advance seasonally from their April low during May and June. However, he believes that large supplies throughout North America will probably hold prices down to an average of $55 per hundreweight in Edmonton during the second quarter.

North America will face record supplies of pork throughout the first half of 1980, and general conditions in the United States, and to a lessr extent in Eastern Canada, do not suggest that demand will improve. However, Mr. Gray predicts that tight supplies of beef will continue to support hog prices.

He also suggests that we will see an end to the expansional phase of pork production in the United States during the second half of 1980, and that we may even see a decline in volume compared with 1979. "We must remember", he says, "that prices during the last half of 1979 were also disappointing, but the prospect of the U.S. moving out of its recession may add some buoyancy to the North American market". , This situation, plus the prospect of lower barley prices, should increase net returns over the very low level that was experienced in late 1979.

-30-

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March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE CANADIAN DOLLAR AND AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY PRICES

Both cattle and hog prices have continued to be buoyed up by the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the American dollar, says Bill Gray, market analyst with Alberta Agriculture.

The following example illustrates the impact varying Canadian dollar values, relative to the U.S. dollar, can have when the Canadian slaughter steer price is $80 per hundredweight, the Canadian hog price is $55 per hundredweight and the exchange rate is $0.85.

Exchange Rate	Cattle @ $80/CWT	Hogs @ $55/CWT
$0.8500	$80.00	$55.00
$0.9000	$75.55	$51.94
$0.9500	$71.56	$49.21
$1.0000	$68.00	$46.75

The above table shows that a slaughter cattle price of $80 per hundredweight, based on an exchange rate of $0.85, would be equal to a slaughter cattle price of $68 per hundredweight if the Canadian dollar was on a par with the American dollar. Similarly, the present Canadian hog price of around $55 per hundredweight would be only about $46.75 per hundredweight if the Canadian dollar was on a par with the American dollar. The same principle holds true for other agricultural commodities and/or currencies.

Any future fluctuations in the value of the Canadian dollar will continue to have a direct and immediate impact on the prices of Canadian commodities traded in the international market.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARLEY OUTLOOK

Barley prices in Alberta are forecast to remain strong at least until the new crop production prospects become the dominant price-making factor.

This is the opinion of Lynn Malmberg of Alberta Agriculture who reports that supplies, particularly in the major feeding areas of the province, are very tight.

Western farmers cut back their barley acreages last spring in reaction to poor profits from this crop during 1977 and 1978. Their production was further cut by the less than ideal growing conditions experienced in both southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Last year's crop totalled 4.55 million tonnes or 4.5 per cent less than that of 1978.

"This reduction," says Mr. Malmberg, "coupled with a dramatic increase in Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) exports resulted in a considerable tightening of the Prairie feed grain supply and demand balance and in non-board feed grain prices almost doubling during the second half of 1979."

Although export barley prices have slumped slightly since the U. S. feed grain embargo against the U.S.S.R. was enacted earlier this year, and could slip even further in the next month or so, they are unlikely to decline sharply. According to Mr. Malmberg, the American government is expected to take action to reduce corn production in that country in 1980, and, thereby, support world feed grain prices. He says that the ability of Alberta farmers to capitalize on world feed grain markets will, as usual, depend upon how well our transportation and handling systems are able to respond to opportunities that may be available in world markets.

The relatively favorable prices and delivery quotas of the last few months will, undoubtedly, result in an increase in Western Canada's 1980 barley acreage. Mr. Malmberg

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Barley Outlook (cont'd)

says this increase in production will unfortunately occur when domestic Western feed grain consumption can be expected to have peaked. He also says that it seems unlikely at this time that 1980-81 barley exports will equal those of the present crop year, partly because of tougher world competition, especially from U.S. corn, and partly because of a tendency for the CWB to favor the shipment of other grains and oilseeds. This decline in domestic and export markets, in addition to an increase in production, can be expected to cause non-board prices to decline during the 1980-81 crop-year, perhaps by as much as $45 per tonne.

- 30 -

NEW PUBLICATIONS

"Seed Treatment of Cereal and Oilseed Crops - 1980" (FS 100/632) discusses the purpose and methods of treating seed and contains a detailed chart that outlines the various chemicals that are registered for seed treatment.

"Major Diseases of Turfgrasses in Western Canada" (273/636-3) describes the main diseases of the common turfgrasses grown in Western Canada and outlines appropriate cultural and chemical control measures. The publication contains colored illustrations of each disease and is an excellent reference source for anyone connected with turfgrass production.

- 30 -

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March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHICH TYPE OF HAY IS THE BEST VALUE?

Is grass hay at $50 per ton a better buy than alfalfa-grass hay at $60 per ton. How about straight alfalfa hay at $80 per ton?

According to Dwight Karren, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock supervisor at Red Deer, each farm, because it is unique, has a different set of factors that will influence the answers to these questions. In the case of a dairy farm, these factors would include relative prices of available hays, the cost of grain and supplements and the level of milk production.

Table 1 shows that alfalfa hay is more valuable than alfalfa grass which, in turn, is more valuable than grass hay from the point of view of crude protein, digestible energy and intake.

TABLE 1

	Crude Protien (%)	Digestible Energy (Mcal/lb)	Daily Intake (lb.)
Grass	8	0.90	20
Alfalfa-Grass	12	1.0	25
Alfalfa	16	1.1	30

Table 2 shows a balanced ration using each of the three types of hay that would supply the nutritional needs of a 1200-pound dairy cow producing 40 pounds of 3.5 per cent butterfat milk per day.

TABLE 2

	Hay		Grain		
	C.P. %	Amount (lb)	C.P. %	Amount (lb)	Cost ($/T)
Grass	8	20	18	18	$150
Alfalfa-Grass	12	25	14	12	$130
Alfalfa	16	30	11	6	$100

The alfalfa ration from table 2 is used as a base. If alfalfa hay is $80 per ton the cost of the feed is:

Alfalfa Hay: 30 lb. x $80/T ÷ 2000 lb/T = $1.20/day
Grain : 6 lb. x $100/T ÷ 2000 lb/T = $0.30/day
Total value of base $1.50/day

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Which Type of Hay Is The Best Value? (cont'd)

Using $1.50 per day as a base price and the alfalfa grass hay in a balance ration.

Grain cost is 12 lb. x $1.30/T÷2000 lbs = $0.78/day
Residual value for hay is $1.50 –$0.78=$0.72/day
25 lb. of hay is needed so its value is $0.72÷25 lb. x 2000 lb.= $57.60/T

If the grass hay ration was used:

Grain cost is 18 lb. x $150/T÷2000 = $1.35/day
Residual hay value $1.50– $1.35= $0.15/day
$0.15 for 20 lb. of hay= $0.15÷20 lb. x 2000 lb. =$15/T

Now back to the original questions. What was the best buy for our dairy cow—grass hay at $50/T, alfalfa grass hay at $60/T or alfalfa hay at $80/T? Our calculations show that the grass hay for this ration is not worth $50/T but that the alfalfa grass hay is worth almost $60/T if it has 12 per cent crude protein.

Table 3 shows the relative value of grass or alfalfa-grass hay for different given values of alfalfa hay.

TABLE 3

Value of Alfalfa hay	(16% C.P.)	$60.00	$70.00	$80.00	$90.00
Value of Alfalfa-Grass	(12% C.P.)	$33.60	$45.60	$57.60	$69.60
Value of Grass	(8% C. P.)	–$15.00	$0.00	$15.00	$30.00

It is important to remember that the figures in table 3 apply only to the ration for a dairy cow producing 40 lb. of milk per day.For a wintering beef cow requiring only 7 per cent to 9 per cent crude protein, the grass hay might be worth almost as much as the alfalfa hay since the only important difference in this case would be the digestible energy content (Talbe1).

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March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMMUNITY IN THE NEWBORN CALF

by Dr. Frank Baker
Extension Veterinarian, Alberta Agriculture

Farmers and ranchers should be aware of the importance of immunity in the newborn calf and the factors that influence the development of that immunity.

Immunity refers to the ability of an animal to resist or overcome an infection, and immunity to a particular disease is specific to that disease. This means that immunity to a disease such as blackleg will not provide immunity to any other disease. Most animals have immunity to many diseases.

Immunity may be acquired by an animal through exposure to a disease or through vaccination. This is referred to as an active immunity because the antibodies, which are responsible for conferring the immunity, are actively produced by the animal itself in response to an infection or vaccination.

Immunity may also be acquired by the transfer of antibodies from a mother to her offspring, either through the placenta to the developing fetus in her womb, as is the case in human beings, or through the colostrum or first milk, as is the case in cattle and sheep. Since these antibodies are not produced by the young animal itself, but merely passively received from its mother the animal is said to have passive immunity to whatever diseases the colostrum contains antibodies against. Such passive immunity is of short duration - two to three weeks to two to three months - but is usually sufficient to protect the young animal against the common diseases in its environment until it is able to produce an active immunity itself in response to vaccination or exposure to infection.

The transfer of passive immunity from a cow to her calf involves three steps:

a) The accumulation of antibodies of sufficient quality and variety in the colostrum;

- (cont'd)-

Immunity In The Newborn Calf (cont'd)

b) The ingestion of colostrum by the calf; and

c) The absorption of antibodies from the intestine into the blood circulation of the calf.

The failure of a calf to achieve satisfactory passive immunity may be traced to a fault in one of those three steps.

The concentration of antibodies in colostrum is highest at calving time and declines rapidly during the first 72 hours following birth. A calf may fail to obtain satisfactory passive immunity because its dam's colostrum contains a low level of antibodies, is of insufficient quantity or both. The concentration of antibodies and the amount of colostrum in heifers is generally lower than that in cows. It is also believed that heifers, having been exposed to fewer infections than older cows, have fewer specific antibodies in their colostrum against various diseases.

It is most important that a newborn calf ingests colostrum within two to three hours after birth because the absorption of antibodies from the intestine into the blood circulation declines rapidly after birth. How quickly the calf suckles depends upon such factors as the mothering ability of its dam. Heifers often have poor mothering ability compared with cows. How quickly the calf locates the cow's teat is important. A low pendulous udder makes teat find difficult for calves which naturally tend to push their muzzles as high as possible under their mother's bellies. Calves that are weak at birth should be helped to nurse or be given colostrum by nipple bottle as soon as possible after their birth.

The following management principles are recommended to ensure the satisfactory transfer of passive immunity from cows to their calves.

. Allow cows to mother their calves for at least 24 hours after birth.

. Ensure that calving takes place in a clean, dry well-bedded area with some protection against wind and bad weather.

- (cont'd) -

Immunity In The Newborn Calf (cont'd)

. Avoid crowding to ensure that the calves are "mothered up" to their right dams as soon as possible and that they are disturbed as little as possible. Newborn calves require a lot of undisturbed rest.

. Observe calving cows frequently so that, when necessary, assistance can be provided quickly.

. Help weak calves to nurse or give colostrum by nipple bottle or stomach tube within six hours of birth. Colostrum may be taken from older cows and given to the calves of heifers.

. Freeze and store excess colostrum for giving to calves which, for various reasons, are unable to obtain sufficient colostrum to ensure that they receive satisfactory passive immunity.

- 30 -

March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAINS AND OILSEEDS MARKET OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

Some of North America's top market analysts will be featured at a grains and oilseeds market outlook conference, scheduled to take place at the Trade and Convention Centre in Calgary on March 18.

Sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, it is designed to provide farmers with information on which they can base their seeding and marketing strategies for the 1980-81 crop year.

Following is a list of topics and speakers:

. Wheat Situation and Outlook – Maurice Brannan, market analyst, Cargill Grain, Minneapolis, U.S.A. and Bill Spafford, economist, Canadian Wheat Board, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

. Feed Grain Situation and Outlook – Doug Ford, president, Winnipeg Commodity Exchange, Winnipeg, and Peter Perkins, president, Herald Grain Ltd., Winnipeg.

. Oilseed Situation and Outlook – David Bartholomew, manager, Oilseeds Department, Merril Lynch, Chicago, U.S.A. and David Hughes, president, Canbra Foods Ltd., Lethbridge.

. Prospects for the Canadian and U.S. Dollars – Dr. G.E. Schuh, head, Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A.

. Situation and Outlook for Grain Transportation and Handling (panel discussion) – Ross Walker, vice- president, Mountain Region, Canadian National Railways; Ron Ennis, general manager, Alberta Terminals Ltd. and Paul Earl of the Grain Transportation Authority, Winnipeg.

Otto Lang, executive vice-president, Pioneer Grain Ltd., Winnipeg, will be the dinner speaker.

A number of agencies are participating in an exhibition of displays to make farmers aware of the many and varied sources of market information available.

The conference will commence at 7 p.m. on March 17 with registration and a reception. However, anyone who wishes to do so may register at 7.30 a.m. on March 18. The registration fee is $50. Cheques should be made payable to the Provincial Treasurer and mailed to the Market Analysis Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

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March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LIVESTOCK MERCHANDISING SYMPOSIUM AT OLDS

Olds College will host a livestock merchandising symposium from April 28 to May 2 to help beef cattle producers to do a better job of merchandising their purebred breeding stock.

It will cover such topics as animal grooming and showing, using live animals for demonstrations; import-export regulations; public relations; market planning; advertising; insurance and livestock financing. Animal anatomy, feed for show animals, animal health and disease-related problems will also be covered.

Alex Mills of the Alberta Breeders Service, a division of Central Alberta Livestock Ltd, will be co-ordinating the program, which will feature leading authorities in the livestock industry. Mr. Mills is a well known livestock consultant and breeding expert. He did his artificial insemination training at the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Ontario, and his prevetерinary medicine at the University of Manitoba. He has instructed courses at Olds College and worked with ICI Pharmaceuticals, the Western Breeders Service of the Canadian Simmental Association and Alberta Agriculture.

Seminar participants will work with animals on the college's farm, and there will be plenty of opportunity for practice and for questions.

The deadline for registering for the symposium is April 18, and a non-refundable deposit of $30 is required at this time. Cheques should be made payable to Olds College. The total cost of the seminar is $150.

Limited accommodation at the college will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

More information on the livestock merchandising symposium can be obtained from the Division of Continuing Education, Olds College, Olds, TOM 1PO (Telephone:556-8343 or 556-8344).

- 30 -

March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMBINE CLINICS SCHEDULED FOR RYCROFT AND FALHER

Ray Stueckle, author of the Book "Combine Setting for Better Harvesting", and regular columnist for the United Grain Grower's monthly publication "Grain News", will be holding a combine clinic at the Community Memorial Hall in Rycroft on March 25 and at Falher College in Falher on March 27. Both clinics will start at 9.30 a.m. and finish at 4.30 p.m.

Topics to be covered include: "Reducing the Number of Damaged Kernels and Unthreshed Heads"; "How to Balance the Air on the Sieves"; "How to Adjust a Combine to Correct Walker Loss"; and "Making the Header Feed Evenly".

Mr. Stueckle has had 20 years of dryland farming in Washington and Idaho in the United States and has spent the last 15 years working with many different combine models in the field. The clinics he has already held in both Saskatchewan and Alberta have been attended by enthusiastic farmers ranging in number from 150 to 500.

The Rycroft and Falher clinics are being sponsored by the agricultural service boards and district agriculturists in Spirit River, Falher, Fairview, Grande Prairie, High Prairie, Peace River and Eaglesham. The cost per person is $20, which includes dinner.

Farmers interested in attending one of the clinics are asked to pre-register with their district agriculturist so that dinner arrangements can be made.

- 30 -

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March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BLACKFLY SEMINAR

A seminar to inform local farmers about the objectives and results of the blackfly research and control programs in the area will be held in the community hall in Grassland at 7 p.m. on March 11.

Sponsored by the pesticide chemicals branch of Alberta Environment, the seminar will cover objectives and results of the research program carried out from 1973-77 and the 1979 blackfly control program. The information provided is designed to be of general interest. The seminar organizers hope to have displays of some of the equipment used in the programs and of blackflies and other insects that have been collected.

Among the topics that will be discussed are chemical treatment of blackflies, blackfly larvae sampling; insect and fish studies; chemical residues in the river; blackfly repellents; cattle shelters; clinical study results; the impact of chemical treatment on insects; research into repellents and cattle breeds; the blackfly survey and future blackfly control work.

Further information can be obtained from district agriculturists in Athabasca and Lac La Biche or from Gary Byrtus, Pesticide Chemical Branch Alberta Environment, 9820 - 106 Street, Edmonton T5K 2J6 (Telephone: 427-5855).

- 30 -

March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OBTAINING AND MANAGING CREDIT IN THE 1980'S

Agricultural representatives from the Farm Credit Corporation, the Agricultural Development Corporation, National Farm Management Services, Alberta Agriculture and two major banks will be taking part in a seminar entitled "Obtaining and Managing Credit in the '80s" at the community centre in Three Hills on March 13.

The seminar has been designed to help you take a comprehensive look at sources of financing, managing risk under a debt load and borrowing over half a million dollars as well as the way you can present your "best side" to a lender.

Present interest rates and the amount of capital required to set up, and even run, a farming operation in this day and age make it extremely important that you know the sources of farm capital that are available. It is equally important to know the programs and policies of these different sources so that you can decide which is right for you.

Registration for the seminar and coffee is at 9.30 a.m. Lunch will be provided and the seminar will wrap-up around 4 p.m.

- 30 -

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March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRI-BUSINESS SUPERVISOR

Lorne Ordze, chairman of the Alberta Agriculture Development Corporation, has announced the promotion of Gordon Volume to the position of agri-business supervisor at the corporations's head office in Camrose.

The agri-business supervisor is responsible for managing the corporation's agri-business loan and guarantee portfolio, currently in excess of $35 million.

Gordon Volume joined the corporation in 1976 as senior business analyst and held this position until his present appointment. Prior to that, he spent 11 years with the federal Business Development Bank, initially as an investigation officer and latterly as a credit officer. He is a professional engineer and obtained his B.Sc. from the University of Manitoba.

Gordon Volume has lived in Alberta for 15 years and makes his home in Sherwood Park.

- 30 -

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March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ADC LOANS OFFICER FOR LETHBRIDGE AND TABER REGION

L.C. Ordze, chairman of the Agricultural Development Corporation's (ADC) board of directors, has announced that John Hubert has been selected for the position of loans officer in Lethbridge. The position was recently created by heavy lending activity in the Lethbridge and Taber areas.

A native of southern Alberta, Mr. Hubert grew up in Coaldale and is familiar with the intensive agricultural industry of that area. He graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a B.Sc. (agriculture) in 1973, having majored in crop science.

Mr. Hubert served as agricultural development consultant with the Mennonite Central Committee in Jordan until 1976. Since then he has farmed in the Grassy Lake area.

- 30 -

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March 3, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL FOOD AND NUTRITION SPECIALIST APPOINTED FOR NORTHERN ALBERTA

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has appointed Catherine Sinnott to the position of regional food and nutrition specialist. She will be located in the O.S. Longman Building in Edmonton.

In her new position, Ms. Sinnott will be responsible for administering educational programs in northern Alberta. These programs cover nutrition, consumer education and research into food products, food trends, nutrition and food selection. Ms. Sinnott will also serve as a resource specialist to the district home economists, regional home economists and agricultural specialists in her area.

She was born in Brandon, Manitoba, but grew up in Winnipeg. She graduated from the University of Manitoba with a B.H.Ec. in 1972, having specialized in foods.

Following graduation, Ms. Sinnott became home economist with Agriculture Canada's food advisory division in Ottawa. In 1976 she worked in the experimental unit on projects designed to promote Canadian foods and to prepare material based on this information for publication. She also developed methods for preparing and storing Canadian foods which she evaluated by sensory and quantitative techniques.

From 1976 to 1978 she worked for the seafood consultant and technology branch of the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Oceans in Halifax. In this position she promoted fisheries products to the food service industry, educators and consumers.

Ms. Sinnott moved to Edmonton at the end of 1978 and became information officer for the Alberta government's metric branch in June of last year. While in this position she wrote articles on metric conversion for publication in government departmental periodicals and the press.

- 30 -

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AL 1691

AGRI-NEWS

March 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

My Years With Alberta's Extension Service (Jubilee Series) 1
Horn Fly Research Results 4
Inoculating Legumes 6
1979 Rapeseed Disease Survey Results 9
Field Pea Production In Alberta 10
Rapeseed Varieties For Alberta 12
How Much Is A Good Bull Worth? 14
Land Leasing Agreements In Alberta 16

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March 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MY YEARS WITH ALBERTA'S EXTENSION SERVICE

by W. Dietz
Alberta Agriculture's Regional Animal Industry Supervisor at Vermilion



A John Deere Van Brunt drill that was adapted by the Gould brothers of Consort in the early 1950's.

I settled in as district agriculturist for the Coronation area in 1960, after six moves in two and a half years while working with the Vermilion School of Agriculture and the 4-H branch of the extension service.

I was the second DA to serve the Coronation area, and it was a rewarding experience . I always said, what the country lacked was more than compensated for by the wonderful people I had the privilege of working and associating with. The original office accommodation left much to be desired, even by the 1960 standards, but we were eventually able to occupy new office space in a new provincial building, which took a lot of work and convincing to get. The move into the new office was simple. With my very sore back, at the time, a strong stenogra-

- (cont'd) -

My Years With Alberta's Extension Service (cont'd)

pher, several years my senior, and determination on both our parts to get into the new quarters, which were on the second floor one block away, we completed the move in three days.

Forage crops were a very vital part of agriculture in the Coronation area because of the importance of beef production. To produce sufficient forage of adequate quality to maintain beef production was a major concern, and the uncertainty of getting a crop was always present. The area was very prone to periods of drought and grasshopper infestations. Some producers tried to build up a surplus of forage in good years to cover for shortages in poor years, but this created storage problems which had to be solved.

Forage production received a high priority in my extension planning. I was fortunate to have some well established forage producers in the Consort area that had been adapting new research information over the years and adding some of their own innovative ideas. Armed with research data, especially from the Lethbridge and Swift Current stations, a supply of various forage seed varieties from the Alberta Department of Agriculture, fertilizer purchased by the local agricultural service boards, and some donated by fertilizer companies, I set out to establish numerous demonstration plots over an area 120 miles east to west and 40 miles north to south. I believe remnants of some of these plots still exist today. Certainly the data and the impact of the plots still exist.

The use of fertilizer on crops was very limited in the early 1960's, and its use on grass in this drought-prone area was generally considered taboo because it was believed "The grass would burn." The fertilizer demonstration plots on grass were extensive and included many treatments and check strips. The visual response to the treatments was dramatic, even in dry years, but the data from the yield checks and from forage analysis were even more dramatic and convincing. The demonstrations were continued for several years and included data on the residual response to fertilizer applications.

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My Years With Alberta's Extension Service (cont'd)

The forage demonstration plots were successful, but results from field scale application were often more difficult to assess. One summer day Tom K. Biggs of Coronation came into the office and gave me a rough time for convincing him to use fertilizer on his hayland. He was cutting a quarter section and was getting a very poor yield. "It was burned by the fertilizer," he said. However, about one month later he came in again and apologized, saying: "When I got to the centre of that hayfield, where I had run out of fertilizer, I had to quit cutting because there was not enough there to be able to pick it up."

The attitude towards fertilizers on grass was changed. Applying fertilizer to grassland became a common practice, and the application rates adopted were in keeping with the most desirable rates determined in the plots. These data have since become a foundation for the work by Bob Wroe, range management supervisor at Hanna.

Not only did the use of fertilizer spread, but the promotional work on varieties and production methods resulted in the increased use of specially designed drills to give a variety of row spacings and alternate rows of grass and alfalfa. This innovation came from my friends, the Gould brothers of Consort, who designed the first drill and who treated good forage production as an art.

They remodelled a John Deere Van Brunt drill in the early 1950's by welding depth control rings on to the discs to limit the seeding depth to 3/4 of an inch. They widened the press wheels by welding two regular press wheels together and spacing them 24 inches apart so that they followed the widely spaced runs. The seed box was modified to provide a single compartment for each run, making it possible to seed grass and alfalfa in alternate rows. The gear drive, which was remodelled for precise seeding rates, was capable of metering as little as half a pound of seed per acre.

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HORN FLY RESEARCH RESULTS

Research and field demonstrations carried out by the entomology section of the Alberta Environmental Centre at Vegreville during the last two summers to control horn flies on range cattle has shown two methods to be considerably superior to others that were tried.

One of these was the forced use of a dust bag containing 5 per cent Prolate dust. The dust bag was suspended in a narrow entrance to a pen containing salt blocks and automatic waterers.

The other method was a self-treatment cable oiler containing 0.5 per cent permethrin, a new synthetic pyrethroid which has recently been registered under the trade name of Ectiban for controlling house flies around livestock handling facilities. The oiler was set out in the middle of a pasture next to salt blocks, and the cattle were free to use the apparatus as they desired.

In both trials, which were carried out on range cattle southeast of Provost, horn fly numbers were kept to below 14 per animal compared with 200 to 400 on animals that had not been treated. The cattlemen, who allowed their cattle to be used for testing a variety of insecticide applicators and registered and unregistered products, remarked upon how contented the animals that had been treated by these methods appeared throughout the summer compared with nearby untreated animals. It is not unusual for a bull to have as many as 4,000 horn flies on his body at one time.

Mr. Hugh Philip, head of the entomology section, reports that when a commercially available dust bag containing one per cent Co-Ral was placed near an automatic waterer in a pasture where a herd of yearlings had access to grain (semi-feedlot situation), they used it of their own accord. In this case average horn fly numbers were kept below 10 per animal.

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Horn Fly Research Results (cont'd)

Mr. Philip also says that he and his staff have observed that animals which have longer than normal hair have considerably fewer flies on them than animals with short hair. This is especially true for yearlings. "Calves," he says, "are not attacked by horn flies until towards the end of the summer."

Ear tags impregnated with a synthetic pyrethroid insecticide is one of the new methods of controlling horn flies being evaluated by the entomology staff to enable them to advise cattle producers on practical means of controlling the flies under range conditions and management practices. Tests in other parts of Canada and in the United States have shown that one treated ear tag per animal provides excellent horn fly control on range cattle. "It has been suggested," says Mr. Philip, "that the effectiveness of these ear tags is such that it may be necessary to tag only one out of two or even one out of three animals to achieve the desired level of control. We plan to carry out further research in 1980 to provide an answer to this question."

Mr. Philip also points out that it is only through the willing and supportive co-operation of cattle producers like those with whom he and his staff have worked on previous horn fly projects that new methods and new products for controlling horn flies and other livestock pests like black flies, cattle lice and warble flies can be evaluated under Alberta conditions.

- 30 -

March 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INOCULATING LEGUMES

Well nodulated legumes that have been properly inoculated with the correct inoculant should not require a nitrogen fertilizer. Since an inoculant costs only 25¢ to 50¢ an acre, the potential saving from its use is considerable.

Ken Lopetinsky, forage and special crops specialist with Alberta Agriculture, explains that legumes, which include alfalfa, clovers, fababeans, peas, lentils, cicer milk vetch, sainfoin and birdsfoot trefoil, are able to supply their own nitrogen requirements by providing energy to the bacteria (rhizobia) in their root nodules. These nodules use this energy to transform atmospheric nitrogen into a form that can by used by the plants. However, to ensure a sufficient supply of nitrogen to the plant, a large quantity of live bacteria specific to the plant species must be attached to the seed when it is planted. The process used to ensure this condition is referred to as inoculation, and according to Mr. Lopetinsky, the best way of making sure that it is done properly is to do it yourself.

Although inoculation cannot correct an inherent soil or management problem, proper inoculation is essential when : soil acidity is a problem (especially in the case of alfalfa); the soil lacks good drainage; the previous legume crop was poor; a legume crop is to be established on virgin soil; or neither the legume nor other legumes from the same group have been previously grown on that land.

Mr. Lopetinsky stresses that the benefit derived from an inoculant is greatly decreased if the legume is inoculated with the wrong bacteria, the seed is improperly inoculated or the inoculant is destroyed during or after seeding.

Proper inoculation includes the use of an inoculant specific for the type of legume to be grown. The inoculant for alfalfa and sweet clover, for example, will be of no benefit

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Inoculating Legumes (cont'd)

to alsike clover, fababeans or any of the other legumes. These cross-inoculation groups separate the various species requiring the same inoculant as follows:

alfalfa and sweet clover; common clovers; peas, broadbeans, fababeans and lentils; kidney, navy, wax and pinto beans; cicer milk vetch; soybeans; birdsfoot trefoil; and sainfoin

"When purchasing an inoculant," says Mr. Lopetinsky, "always specify the crop on which it is to be used and use it within the "safe" period stamped on the package. Also, always store the inoculant in a cool, dark place such as a refrigerator." Since inoculants contain live bacteria, freezing or prolonged exposure to sunlight will destroy them.

Mr. Lopetinsky says a more productive legume stand will be obtained if a slurry or sticker is used to apply the inoculant to the seed. Research has shown that the application of a dry inoculant to dry seed is not an effective method of inoculation.

With the slurry method, a commercially prepared inoculant is mixed with warm water or skim milk, according to label instructions, and then mixed with the seed. Mr. Lopetinsky says a higher rate of inoculant than that recommended is beneficial when there is a strong possibility of it being damaged by climatic or management factors during seeding.

He also says the sticker or syrup method has proved to be the best way to inoculate legumes. With this method, a commercial or a home-made sticker is applied to the seed and the inoculant is then thoroughly mixed into the sticky seed to ensure that all the seeds are covered. A good recipe for a home-made sticker is 2 tablespoonsful of corn syrup, honey or sugar dissolved in a quart of warm water or skim milk. The recommended applications are approximately 1.5 pints per 60 pounds of small seed (alfalfa, clover) or 0.5 pint per 60 pounds of large seed (fababeans, peas).

Seed that has been treated by either the slurry or syrup method must be dried before it can be seeded, but it should always be dried out of direct sunlight. It should be planted as soon as possible after having been inoculated, preferably on the same day.

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Inoculating Legumes (cont'd)

To avoid destroying the bacteria, inoculated seed should be drilled into a moist seedbed. Small-seed legumes, (alfalfa, clover,) which require shallow seeding, should not be seeded if the soil is dry. Lack of moisture and high temperatures will both destroy the bacteria.

- 30 -

March 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1979 RAPESEED DISEASE SURVEY RESULTS

A survey carried out last summer showed that flower sterility and the production of small pods was the most serious condition affecting rapeseed crops in Alberta.

Dr. Jack Horricks, supervisor of plant pathology with Alberta Agriculture, says last summer's hot dry weather which extended from Edmonton to the southern part of the province encouraged the sterility and small pod formation by exposing rapeseed crops to considerable stress. He also says that excessive moisture and high temperatures in several areas in the Peace River region produced similar results.

Seedling blight was fairly severe last year because soil was either cold and dry or cold and wet during the spring and frosts were fairly common.

Black spot, white rust and root rot were the most prevalent diseases. They occurred in 81, 58 and 47 per cent respectively of the 77 fields surveyed, while sclerotinia stem rot was found in only 17 per cent of the fields.

Sclerotinia stem rot was most severe in the Westlock area, root rot in the Hardisty area and the staghead-white rust complex in the Vegreville area. Black spot and sclerotinia stem rot were both reported to be severe in the Peace River region.

The virulent strain of black leg was not found in Alberta last year even though it infected 25 per cent of the plants in a field only 45 miles east of the Alberta-Saskatchewan border.

Dr. Horricks reports that rape diseases were less of a problem in Alberta in 1979 than they were in 1978.

- 30 -

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March 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIELD PEA PRODUCTION IN ALBERTA

by Bob Park
Supervisor, Special Crops Alberta Agriculture

Field peas are best adapted to the black soil zone in Alberta. Because they are a cool season crop with a restricted root system, they cannot tolerate hot weather or drought during flowering.

Well drained, clay loam soils are ideal for pea production, while those that are poorly drained and cold should be avoided because they favor the development of seedling diseases and root rots. A firm, weed-free seedbed in a highly fertile soil is best for field pea production. Stony fields are not recommended, but if they are used, they should be packed after seeding to bury loose stones that might be picked up during harvesting.

Field peas should be sown as early as possible to advance the maturity of the crop, and, thereby, reduce the possibility of detrimentally high temperatures during flowering. Pea seedlings can withstand a considerable amount of frost.

The seed should be sown three to eight cm deep in rows that are 15 cm apart. Although seeding is usually done with a grain drill, a discer will do a satisfactory job.

When a discer is used, the soil should be packed after seeding to prevent excess moisture loss. The seeding rate will depend upon size of the seed. The optimum rate is about 12 seeds per metre of row. This rate averages out at about 120 kg/ha for small sized seed varieties like Trapper; 150 kg/ha for medium sized seed varieties like Tara and Lenca; 190 kg/ha for large sized seed varieties like Century; and 240 kg/ha for extra large sized seed varieties like Triumph.

Tara and Lenca, licensed in 1978 and 1979 respectively, are expected to increase production in Alberta in the 1980's. Both varieties reach maturity in about the same length of time as the traditional varieties (95 days), but outyield the traditional varieties by about 25 per cent.

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Field Pea Production In Alberta (cont'd)

Although nitrogen is necessary for high pea yields, it does not generally have to be applied in large quantities. The peas should be inoculated with the bacterium strain *Rhizobium leguminosarum* that is specific for peas, lentils and vetches to ensure that the peas symbiotically fix up to 30 per cent of their nitrogen requirements. Peas require fairly large amounts of phosphorous and sulphur, which can usually be applied at seeding time. Quantities of 20 pounds of phosphorous and 14 pounds of sulphur can be safely drilled in with the seed, but growers should have the nutrient level of their soil tested before applying them.

Since weeds can sharply reduce yields and the quality of field peas, particularly when the crop emerges, an effective weed control program that includes the efficient use of registered herbicides is essential. Carbyne, Avadex BW, TCA, Cobex, Treflan, MCPA, MCPB and Premerge are all registered for use on field peas.

Insects are not usually a problem for pea growers in Alberta. Occasionally pea aphids will infest a crop, but they can be controlled with malathion. However, field peas are subject to numerous diseases. They are mainly carried on the seed or in the soil. To avoid serious damage from disease, only pedigreed seed should be planted, the seed should be treated with a recommended fungicide, field peas should not be grown on the same land more than once every four or five years; and all diseased vines should be destroyed.

Because field peas shell very easily when dry and crack very easily during threshing, they must be harvested with care. They can be stored with a moisture content of up to 16 per cent. If it is necessary to dry them, the dryer temperature should not exceed 43° C.

Approximately 7,500 acres were devoted to field pea production in Alberta last year, and most of the peas were sold outside the province. Only a small part of the field pea crop in Canada is used domestically for human consumption (e.g. pea soup). The majority is used for livestock feed or is exported.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED VARIETIES FOR ALBERTA

The greatest problem facing Alberta rapeseed growers is the lack of varietal choice, according to Dr. Zen Kondra of the University of Alberta's Department of Plant Science.

He says the choice of varieties that can be grown in the Polish-type production areas is limited to Candle and Torch, and that a grower who wants to deliver to a domestic crusher must grow Candle. Candle is a "double-low" or a Canola variety. Although Torch can be sold on export markets, delivery opportunities may be limited.

Dr. Kondra believes that Alberta rapeseed growers would be wise to completely change over to the Canola varieties as soon as possible so that they will have a superior product for all markets. It is true that Candle has received some adverse publicity regarding its agronomic performance, but long-term data indicate that its yield is only 10 per cent below Torch in the Peace River region and only 5 per cent below Torch in central Alberta.

Varietal selection in Argentine-type rapeseed is almost as limited as it is in the Polish type. There are three Canola varieties that Dr. Kondra says are good agronomic performers in their areas of adaptation. They are Regent, Altex and Tower, and their yield advantage over Polish-type rapeseed varies from 5 to 20 per cent.

Regent is higher yielding than all other varieties in southern Alberta's irrigation area where maturity is not a problem. Data collected in central Alberta indicate that Altex is the highest yielding of the three varieties in that part of the province if it is planted during the first two weeks of May. In some areas of Alberta the cut-off date is the third week in May.

Although Altex is a few days earlier than Regent and Tower, it is still 10 to 14 days later than Candle in northern Alberta. Since there is a very high risk of frost in northern areas, the Argentine varieties are not generally recommended. However, Dr. Kondra says there is a limited potential for Altex production in the Peace River region. He advises rapeseed producers

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Rapeseed Varieties For Alberta (cont'd)

to grow it only if they can plant it during the first two weeks of May, and then to plant only a limited acreage. He recommends planting the majority of the crop to a Polish-type rapeseed.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOW MUCH IS A GOOD BULL WORTH?

Can I afford to pay more than $2,500 for a bull to serve my commercial cow herd? That is a question many Alberta farmers are pondering as the spring bull sales approach.

One rule of thumb has been that you can afford to pay at least two or three times the value of a 1,100-pound market steer for a herd sire. With fat cattle prices at 75¢ to 80¢ per pound, a steer will bring between $825 and $900. Hence, the value of a commercial herd sire would be between $1,700 and $2,700, and it is probably no coincidence that these figures just about cover the range of average prices at last spring's bull sales.

A farmer or rancher who is trying to improve the quality of his cattle herd often wonders how much more he can afford to pay for a good bull than for a fair bull. W.K. Singleton and L.A. Nelson, animal scientists at Purdue University in the United States, have developed a method for answering this question. The following example is based on their method:

Two bulls are raised under the same management in a herd which has an average 365-day weight of 1,025 pounds. Bull A weighs 1,143 pounds at the end of this period, while bull B weighs only 923 pounds. When their weights are adjusted to 365 days, bull A has a 365-day index of 112 and bull B has an index of 90. The difference in weight between the two bulls is 220 pounds.

Since the heritability factor in the 365-day weight is known to be about 0.5, bull A would, theoretically, transmit about half his superior weight gain, or 110 pounds, to his offspring. However, because a calf receives only half its genetic make-up from its sire, the offspring from bull A would probably weigh 55 pounds more at 365 days of age than the calves from bull B mated to the same cows.

If each extra pound of yearling weight is worth 80c , the difference in the value of the calves from bull A and bull B would be 55 x $0.80 = $44 each. Although the extra 55

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How Much Is A Good Bull Worth? (cont'd)

pounds of gain might cost a bit more for extra feed, the cost per pound would be less than the average feed cost per pound of gain because faster gaining animals use feed more efficiently.

For the sake of argument, let us say that the 55 pounds of extra gain cost $0.25 per pound for the extra feed required. The extra net profit from each calf sired by bull A would then be $44 - (55 lb. x $0.25) or $44 - $13.75 = $30.25.

If the two bulls sired 25 calves per year for three years, bull A would produce an additional net profit from his offspring of 25 x 3 x $30.25 = $2,268.75.

If bull B is worth two steers or $1,700, a buyer could afford to pay $1,700 + $2,268 = $3,968 for bull A, which would provide the additional benefit of siring heifer calves that would increase the herd's average 365-day weight in the next generation.

While the above method of calculating what a good bull is worth is correct and probably accurate in most cases, it is important to realize that the results from an individual bull may not always fit this pattern. A potential buyer should always assess such individual factors as the animal's feet, legs and testicle size and quality before making a final decision.

When individual factors are taken into consideration, the American animal scientists' method can be a very useful guide to assessing a bull's value. It shows that a commercial beef producer can indeed afford to pay a premium for a superior quality herd sire.

- 30 -

March 10, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LAND LEASING AGREEMENTS IN ALBERTA

A recent survey of cropland rentals in Alberta, carried out by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, showed a tremendous variation in what landlords and tenants contribute to their lease arrangements.

There are two basic requirements for a good lease. One is that the income shared or the rent paid should be in proportion to the contributions of each party. The second is that the arrangement should promote the efficient use of resources and guard against conflicting interests between the landlord and the tenant. It should provide the incentive to optimize the profits of the farming operation to the mutual benefit of both parties. This often requires the landlord to share in some of the production expenses in the same proportion as the income is divided.

The length of a leasing agreement can affect the long-term efficiency of the farm operation. A short-term lease, for example, may result in the tenant overemphasizing short-term investments when longer-term investments like seeding forage crops, reclaiming land, controlling erosion, etc. would be more profitable in the long run.

A booklet entitled "Land Leasing Agreements in Alberta", compiled by the farm business management branch, contains suggestions for lease agreements and sample forms for the three most common types of land leasing arrangements in Alberta. They are the crop share lease, the cash lease and the flexible cash lease. Intended as guides, the sample forms are believed to contain most of the considerations necessary in a good lease, but they must be adapted to each individual's situation. Some considerations may not apply, others may need changing and some may need to be added.

Copies of "Land Leasing Agreements in Alberta" can be obtained from district agriculturists and from the Publications Office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

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March 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Powerline Relocation Program Announced 1
Good Seed Month 3
Transportation Expert To Present Klinck Lecture 4
Rabies In Skunks 5
Grande Prairie 1954 - 1959 (Jubilee Series) 6
Agricultural Research Council Of Alberta Expanded 8
Alfalfa Seed Production 10
How Metric Conversion Affects Car And Truck Tires 12
District Agriculturist Appointments 16
Bonnyville District Agriculturist Appointed 18

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March 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POWERLINE RELOCATION PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Alberta Minister of Agriculture, the Honorable Dallas Schmidt, has announced implementation of a new program to help farmers move troublesome power poles and cables that now impede efficient use of sprinkler irrigation systems.

The Powerline Relocation Program, estimated to cost $100,000 in 1980-81, will be retroactive to 1974.

"I think the intent of this program is significant," said Mr. Schmidt. "In years past, rural electrification was a priority that led to powerlines and poles being erected as quickly as possible."

"At that time the poles and wires were only a minor nuisance compared to the availability of cheap electric power to rural Albertans," said the Minister.

"Now, particularly in our irrigated districts, we're finding some ill-placed powerlines are becoming quite costly."

Improved technology is one cause. The effectiveness of new sprinkler systems, now able to cover an entire field, is severely lowered if a powerline cuts across the area. Physically moving the sprinkler also costs valuable time and money. A further consideration is safety: water and electricity can be a dangerous combination.

Similar situations are being faced in other parts of the province. "However, right now irrigated areas offer us the best opportunity to test initial response," said the Minister.

The Minister also said the new program is part of an effort "to make utility and oil companies realize that they have a major social obligation to accommodate, if feasible, the best interests of agriculture.

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Powerline Relocation Program Announced (cont'd)

"Indeed, if the increased costs of relocating a powerline are offset by lower losses in agricultural production, it makes sense to investigate the alternative," he added.

There will be several conditions for participating in the program, Mr. Schmidt indicated. Producers will be responsible for initiating relocation of powerlines that must handle no more than 25 kilovolts. The lines must definitely interfere with irrigation and individuals must be willing to grant another easement at no charge to the utility companies.

Costs will be shared. Producers will pay the first $300 per pole (minimum $600) to be removed from the affected area. The utility companies will handle some of the bill. Alberta Agriculture will make up the difference.

"Some farmers who independently relocated powerlines in the past will be able to obtain partial compensation," said Mr. Schmidt. The guidelines will remain the same for producers in this position.

Application forms can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's irrigation division in Lethbridge.

- 30 -

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GOOD SEED MONTH

March is set aside each year to emphasize the importance of good seed in crop production. Producers of grain and oilseed crops should start with good quality seed to help ensure themselves of a good crop. The extra cost of good seed is very little in comparison to the returns and peace of mind that are obtained.

Good seed has large, plump kernels that result in better germination, better stand establishment, better weed competition, better disease resistance and ultimately higher yields. Good seed is as free as possible from weed seed and seed of other crop kinds. Just one weed seed per pound would result in about 70 weed seeds per acre being returned to the field.

When considering seed, look at the purity test. This test indicates not only the amount of weed seed or seed of other crop kinds, but indicates what kind the seeds are. Another consideration is the germination of the seed. Have germination tests performed if you are considering using your own seed, or ask to see the official test results for purity and germination if purchasing seed. These tests are performed by Canada Agriculture's plant products division.

Pedigreed seed is one method of assuring yourself that the seed you purchase meets certain standards. Pedigreed seed must meet standards for varietal purity, weed seed content, seed of other crop kind content, and germination. However, to know exactly how much better than the minimum standard the seed is, request the germination percentage, and weed kind and quantity of the lot you are considering to purchase.

Good seed does not cost - it pays. Before deciding on the seed you will use this spring, get all the facts on it. Cheap seed may be just that.

- 30 -

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Alberta
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March 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRANSPORTATION EXPERT TO PRESENT KLINCK LECTURE

John R. Baldwin, one of Canada's foremost transportation experts, will present the Klinck Lecture on the subject of "Transportation and Agriculture" at 7.30 p.m. on March 26, 1980 at the Homesteader Inn in Vegreville.

The lecture in Vegreville is one in a series of lectures that will see Mr. Baldwin address groups across Canada.

The Klinck Lecture has been presented by the Agricultural Institute of Canada since 1964 as a means of presenting information on a nationwide basis on subjects of importance to Canadian agriculture.

Mr. Baldwin has had a long and distinguished career. He held many senior positions with the federal government, and was Deputy Minister of Transport from 1954 to 1968. In 1968 he was named president of Air Canada, and in 1974 was appointed special advisor to Transport Canada.

The Klinck Lecture in Vegreville is being sponsored by the northeast branch of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists. The Agricultural Institute of Canada is a national non-profit organization of agricultural professionals. It acts as an umbrella organization for the Alberta Institute of Agrologists and the provincial institutes of other provinces.

- 30 -

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March 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RABIES IN SKUNKS

The Alberta Central Rabies Control Committee met recently to discuss the finding of eight cases of rabies in skunks in a small area of Alberta south of Foremost. Alberta has been free of rabies in skunks for two years and steps are being taken to introduce control measures in the affected area.

Rabies is a serious disease because it is nearly always fatal to man and animals once symptoms of the disease appear. Since farm dogs and cats in the area could become infected from skunks, pets should be vaccinated. People are advised that skunks act abnormally when they are infected and may become extremely unafraid of humans or dogs and appear tame and friendly. These animals should not be handled. The affected skunk should be killed if that can be accomplished safely, and the nearest federal veterinarian or fish and wildlife officer should be notified.

It is hoped control over the situation in this small area will be successful and the problem will not spread to other parts of the province.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRANDE PRAIRIE
1954 - 1959

by R.C. (Jerry) Moffat
District Agriculturist

When I moved to Grande Prairie in September, 1954, the trip from Edmonton spanned more than 400 miles. It was necessary to drive via Smith and Lesser Slave Lake because the Whitecourt-Valleyview cutoff highway was not completed. Very little of the highway was paved and the trip would take two days or more after a heavy rain. Since the Whitecourt-Valleyview cutoff was completed in 1955, Peace River residents have enjoyed an excellent highway connecting Edmonton with Grande Prairie.

In 1954 the Department of Agriculture's office in Grande Prairie was located in a relatively new provincial building. It was a good office, but small since there was only a district agriculturist, a district home economist and a secretary working out of Grande Prairie at that time. The area served included the county of Grande Prairie, and the improvement districts covering the Debolt-Valleyview and Wapiti communities. The city of Grande Prairie was a town with a population of approximately 4,000. Grande Prairie became a city in 1959 with a population of something over 5,000.

Much of the extension work in this large territory was done through mass media. We had the great advantage of having a most co-operative local radio station and weekly newspaper, who assisted in disseminating information to farmers in the area. I held weekly radio broadcasts and wrote weekly articles for the newspaper.

At that time, barley, wheat and flax were the most popular grains grown in the area, but many farmers relied on grass and legume seed as major cash crops. Most farmers operated mixed farms and raised beef and/or hogs. The quality of the cattle was excellent by most standards in other areas of the province. Rapeseed was not grown at that time, nor were

- (cont'd) -

Grande Prairie 1954 - 1959 (cont'd)

we advised to encourage that crop. Some years later, new rapeseed varieties made that particular crop one of the most popular in the area.

During the five years I was at Grande Prairie, we developed a number of programs, primarily through the agriculture service board. We were successful in getting the first seed cleaning plant in the Peace River region constructed in Sexsmith. We were also successful in setting up a brucellosis control area in the county of Grande Prairie. Outside veterinarians were brought in to assist with the calf-hood vaccination program. The provincial Department of Agriculture was also involved with the federal rabies control program under which the compulsory vaccination of dogs was undertaken during a serious rabies outbreak. The county of Grande Prairie was one of the first counties to participate in the provincial farm credit scheme, designed to assist young farmers in getting established on the land.

Some enterprising businessmen constructed the first Peace River area auction mart. This became a central location for many valuable agricultural activities and was instrumental in moving feeder cattle throughout the Peace River area. An abattoir was built about the same time, which also served the community well, particularly in view of the distance between Edmonton's packing houses and the livestock producing areas of the Peace River.

People doing extension work in the Peace River at the time enjoyed a type of goodwill and co-operation among the farm people that was unmatched anywhere in Western Canada. The very character of the people living in the area made extention work enjoyable and gave one a feeling of real accomplishment.

- 30 -

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

March 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF ALBERTA EXPANDED

Alberta's Minister of Agriculture, the Honorable Dallas Schmidt, has announced the appointment of Mr. Jack Butler of Youngstown to the Agricultural Research Council of Alberta (ARC).

The Research Council is the administrator of the province's Farming for the Future agricultural research project, a five-year, $10- million program being supported by the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. The appointment increases the ARC membership to 14.

"Mr. Butler's lengthy experience both in agriculture and through past service in local and provincial government will make him a distinct asset to the Council," said Mr. Schmidt.

A former MLA for the riding of Hanna-Oyen and a long-time beef and grain producer, Mr. Butler, 62, currently runs a major cow-calf, yearling operation on 15,000 acres near Youngstown, located approximately 30 miles east of Hanna.

"We wanted representation from the southeastern part of Alberta. Jack will provide this.

"However, his active support of our research effort will be just as important. I feel his enthusiasm will certainly bring added strength to the Council," said the Minister.

" I'm always interested in cattle diseases and the day-to-day problems of running a cattle operation," said Mr. Butler. This interest led him to be an active member on the board of directors of the Chinook Applied Research Association. This research association centred in the Special Areas and the Acadia Valley has just completed its first year of operation.

"I'm also familiar with the Farming for the Future program. That was (introduced) when I was an MLA," he said.

- (cont'd) -

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Agricultural Research Council Of Alberta Expanded (cont'd)

Since leaving provincial politics, Mr. Butler has retained an active interest in local affairs. He is continuing a 13-year involvement as a member of the Special Areas Advisory Council that provides input into the three-man board governing special areas in the province.

Mr. Butler is also a zone director for the Alberta Cattle Commission, has been a long-time member of the Alberta Wheat Pool and is a member of the Western Stock Growers Association.

- 30 -

March 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALFALFA SEED PRODUCTION

by Bob Park
Supervisor, Special Crops
Alberta Agriculture

Since alfalfa seed production is a very specialized venture, potential growers must be aware of the type of management that is required to produce an acceptable crop.

The most difficult problem from the point of view of management is pollination. Honey bees are not effective pollinators in Alberta and the native bee population tends to be unreliable. However, because native bees can be very important pollinators in some years, when possible, alfalfa fields should be long, narrow and located close to unbroken land.

The most reliable method of ensuring adequate po lination for alfalfa seed crops is to use leafcutter bees. They are relatively specific to alfalfa in that they prefer the pollen from it and from buckwheat to other sources. This fact, combined with their limited flying range, makes them excellent pollinators when they are installed at the rate of about 20,000 cocoons per acre of alfalfa. However, leafcutters will not work well in damp weather or when the temperature falls below 19° C. Hence, their usefulness is severely limited in some years.

Weed control is another problem encountered in alfalfa seed production. Because the selective control of perennial weeds is very difficult in an established stand, alfalfa should always be grown on weed-free land. Eptam, a pre-plant incorporated herbicide, can be used to control some annual weeds and grasses. Dowpon, Carbyne, MCPA amine, MCPA sodium and Embutox E can be used on seedling alfalfa stands to control the same weeds as Eptam plus a few others.

Alfalfa that is being grown for seed should be planted by mid-June so that it can establish a good root system during the first season. Late seeded stands will bloom later, produce less bloom and less seed the first year. It should always be planted in rows. The best row-spacings range from 45 cm to 60 cm and a seeding rate of about 1.2 kg/ha is recommended.

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Alfalfa Seed Production (cont'd)

Alfalfa seed producers should inspect their crops for insects before the plants start to bloom, preferably in the early to mid-bud stage. If necessary, the recommended insecticide should be applied immediately. Lygus bugs, several species of plant bugs and aphids can destroy alfalfa buds, cause the flowers to drop and cause seed blast. Thrips, leaf hoppers, weevils and numerous species of beetles also attack alfalfa plants. Always allow at least a week after a crop has been sprayed before placing leafcutter bees in the field.

Since alfalfa does not shatter much when mature, time of swathing and combining is not crucial. However, the crop should be swathed when 75 per cent of the pods have turned dark brown or black. This crop also lends itself to straight combining after a heavy frost or 10 to 12 days after defoliation has taken place.

Although the market for forage seed is a fluctuating one, Canada has been a net importer of alfalfa seed over the years. Some American varieties meet part of the large amount of alfalfa seed used in Eastern Canada. However, since there is still a strong market for Canadian varieties in Canada because of their superior winter hardiness, many Alberta farmers should be able to profit from the business of alfalfa seed production.

- 30 -

March 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOW METRIC CONVERSION AFFECTS CAR AND TRUCK TIRES

by Brenda Ford
Metric Branch
Alberta Government Services

Metric conversion has provided the tire manufacturing industry with the opportunity to switch to an international sizing standard for passenger car tires called P-metric.

In the past, three types of size designations have been in use for passenger car tires. These were the numeric (e.g. 7.75 14), alpha numeric (e.g. F R 78 14) and metric (e.g. 195 R 14). The latter metric designation, which should not be confused with the P-metric designation, was introduced years ago by Canadian and U.S. manufacturers to provide replacement tires for imported cars. These metric tires along with the numeric and alpha numeric will eventually be changed to P-metric designations on a world-wide basis. Since this conversion process will take place gradually, "old" tires will be around for some time. Because the change in tire sizes is not drastic, P-metric tires can be used on a car with "old" tires, thereby making it unnecessary to buy four new P-metric tires when purchasing replacements.

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How Metric Conversion Affects Car and Truck Tires (cont'd)

The P-metric tire sizes and the "old" tires that they replace are listed below.

	P-Metric Radial Passenger Tire Size	May Replace		
13" Tire Size	P155/80R13	155R13 155-13	P155/80 D13	
	P165/80R13	165R13 AR78-13	A78-13	
	P175/80R13	175R13 BR78-13	B78-13	
	P185/75R13	BR78-13 BR70-13 175R13	P185/70R13 B78-13 B70-13	
14" Tire Size	P175/75R14	165R14 BR78-14	B78-14 6.45-14	
	P185/75R14	CR78-14 CR70-14 C78-14	C70-14 6.95-14 175R14	185-70R14
	P195/75R14	DR78-14 ER78-14	D78-14 E78-14 185R14	
	P205/70R14	DR70-14 ER70-14	D70-14 E70-14	
	P215/75R14	GR78-14 GR70-14	G78-14 G70-14	
	P225/75R14	HR78-14 HR70-14	H78-14 H70-14	
15" Tire Size	P205/75R15	FR78-15 FR70-15	F78-15 F70-15	
	P215/75R15	GR78-15 GR70-15	G78-15 G70-15	
	P225/75R15	HR78-15 HR70-15 JR78-15 JR70-15	H78-15 H70-15 J78-15 J70-15	
	P235/75R15	LR78-15 LR70-15	L78-15 L70-15	

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How Metric Conversion Affects Car and Truck Tires (cont'd)

The size designation P 195/75 R 14, to use an example, can be interpreted as follows:

P - designates a passenger car tire.

195 - is the section width which is the linear distance between the outside of sidewalls of an inflated tire. It is measured in millimetres (mm).

75 - referred to as the "series" - indicates the height to width ratio of the tire rounded to the nearest 5 per cent. In this case, "Series 75" means that the tire is approximately 75 per cent higher than it is wide. The load-carrying capacity of a tire differs depending on the series number.

R - signifies radial construction ("B' would indicate belted and "D" diagonal).

14 - norminal rim diameter in inches. This is not likely to change because rim sizes are measured in inches in most countries in the world.

Other information provided with a tire includes the tread, load and inflation limits. Tread is described in the same terms as were used prior to metric conversion. Load and inflation limits are shown in both metric and customary units on the P-metric tires. It should be noted that the inflation pressure indicated on the tire is the maximum inflation pressure limit. The recommended inflation pressure is supplied in the owner's manual, on the glove compartment plate, etc.

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How Metric Conversion Affects Car and Truck Tires (cont'd)

One new feature of the P-metric tires is their higher maximum inflation pressures. The P-metric tires can be inflated 20 kPa more than the corresponding tire size under the old nomenclature and can, therefore, carry a greater load.

The dimensions of truck tires will not likely change for some years, mainly because existing tire moulds required to produce these tires are very expensive and long lasting. The dual marking of load and inflation limits has already begun to appear on some brands of truck tires. This is not indicative of a change in dimension but merely provides the equivalent metric nomenclature.

- 30 -

March 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTMENTS

J.G. Calpas, director of extension, Alberta Agriculture, has announced the appointments of Janette McDonald-Adam, Ted Nibourg and Jim Soldan to district agriculturist positions at Leduc, Three Hills and Barrhead respectively. All appointments have an effective date of March 3, 1980.

A native of southwestern Manitoba, Janette attended the University of Manitoba and obtained a B.Sc. in agriculture in May of 1979. Between university semesters, her summer jobs included acting as supervisor of a farm labour project in northeastern Manitoba under S.T.E.P. in 1975, and employment as a sales representative for Elanco Canada Ltd. in 1977 and 1978 in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Immediately following graduation in 1979, Janette joined Alberta Agriculture as an assistant district agriculturist located at Lethbridge, a position she held until this appointment.

Ted Nibourg is a native of Stettler County, Alberta and a 1976 graduate of the University of Alberta. After obtaining his B.Sc. in agriculture Ted joined the Alberta Wheat Pool at Stettler as the assistant elevator manager and remained in that position until May of 1977 when he was appointed regional 4-H specialist with Alberta Agriculture located initially at Lethbridge, and subsequently at Grande Prairie. Mr. Nibourg remained the 4-H specialist at Grande Prairie until his current posting to Three Hills.

A native of Two Hills, Alberta, Jim Soldan graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in agriculture in 1976. During the summer of 1975, Jim was employed with Alberta Agriculture as a summer assistant district agriculturist located at Morinville. Following graduation from the University of Alberta in 1976, he accepted the position of

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District Agriculturist Appointments (cont'd)

assistant district agriculturist, located once again at Morinville. In May of 1977, he was appointed district agriculturist at Westlock. In September of the following year, Jim transferred to Thorhild as district agriculturist, a position he retained until his present appointment at Barrhead.

- 30 -

March 17, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BONNYVILLE DISTRICT AGRICULTURIST APPOINTED

Alberta Agriculture's director of extension, J.G. Calpas, has announced the appointment of Peter Nielsen to the position of district agriculturist at Bonnyville, effective February 21, 1980. Mr. Nielsen will assume the responsibilities formerly discharged by Robert Feniak prior to the latter's transfer to the office of the Farmers' Advocate.

A native of Denmark, Peter moved to Canada in November, 1967 and worked at a variety of jobs, including farmhand, in both Ontario and Alberta before enrolling at the University of Alberta in September, 1970. Between university terms, he managed the university's experimental herbicide plots in the summer of 1972 and in the following summer supervised the soil reclamation project at Shell Canada in Pincher Creek. He acted as a teaching assistant in his final year and graduated with a B.Sc. in agriculture in the spring of 1974.

Peter joined Alberta Agriculture in July of 1974 as an assistant district agriculturist in Peace River. In October of the same year, he was appointed district agriculturist at Coronation and remained in that position until October of 1978 when he accepted the position of program manager of agriculture with the Saddle Lake Band. In addition to providing technical agricultural advice to individual band members, Peter's responsibilities included the formulation of long-range agriculture programs in consort with overall band objectives. He retained this position until his most recent appointment.

- 30 -

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AGRI-NEWS

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March 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Committee Appointed To Review Hog Marketing In Alberta 1
Minister of Agriculture Announces Additional Research Funding 4
Alberta To Participate In International Horticulture Show 5
Grain And Oilseed Market Prospects Explored At Accent 1980 6
Lang Proposes Plan For More Secure Crow Benefit 8
Mechanical Aeration Of Dugout Water 9
"As It Was In The Beginning Is Not Now And Never Again Shall Be" (Jubilee Series) . 11
Alberta Firms To Receive Assistance Under Nutritive Processing Agreement 14
Beekeeping Short Course At Vermilion 15
Conservation Award Presented To 4-H Movement 16

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COMMUNICATIONS

March 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO REVIEW HOG MARKETING IN ALBERTA

The Honourable Dallas Schmidt, minister of agriculture, has announced that former Alberta attorney general James L. Foster has accepted the position of chairman of a committee being formed to review all aspects of hog marketing in Alberta.

Establishment of the committee was announced by Mr. Schmidt on February 21, 1980 in response to events that had resulted in provincial hog marketing reaching a state of turmoil.

Created under Ministerial Order, the committee will be composed of the chairman, plus one representative each from the Alberta Pork Producers' Marketing Board and Alberta meat packers plus an independent hog producer.

Dan Giebelhaus of Vegreville has been named by the Pork Producers' Marketing Board to sit on the committee. Leon E. Ferguson of Edmonton will represent Alberta meat packers while James P. Christie of Trochu is the independent hog farmer who will sit on the committee.

According to the terms under which it was created, the committee is authorized to act in an advisory capacity to the Minister and will be concerned with reviewing the procedures involved in Alberta's hog marketing system and recommending changes to ensure an open, fair and competitive system of hog marketing in the province.

An essential task of the committee will be to study the interaction of the Alberta Pork Producers' Marketing Board, Alberta packing companies and Alberta hog producers, the three major components of the swine industry.

The committee's current plan is to commence in early April six public meetings across the province. At that time, interested individuals or parties will be free to submit infor-

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Committee Appointed To Review Hog Marketing In Alberta (cont'd)

mation they consider pertinent to the review. The locations for these hearings are Lethbridge, Red Deer, Westlock, Fairview, Vegreville and Camrose. Specific dates and times will be released later this month.

Following these meetings, the committee will establish Edmonton as its permanent base of operations. There, it will entertain both written and verbal submissions from parties and individuals who wish to present more formal briefs.

After all input has been received, the committee will then review the material and prepare a report for the Minister. It is hoped that this process will be completed within 90 days.

"It is anticipated this report will provide major input into the future policy and direction of Alberta's hog marketing system," said Mr. Schmidt.

In June 1968 the Alberta Pork Producers' Marketing Board was established under the authority of the Marketing of Agricultural Products Act. It was the result of a producer plebiscite requiring a simple majority of those producers eligible to vote.

"Since that time, Alberta's swine industry has undergone great change," said the Minister. "Similar to agriculture as a whole, the pattern of hog production now encompasses larger specialized units, higher capital investments, and fewer producers."

In 1977, at a time of serious marketing and pricing concerns, Dr. Hu Harries was retained to conduct a report on hog pricing relationships. This attempt to establish prices that would be both equitable to Alberta producers and relevant to the North American hog market led to changes in the provincial hog marketing system.

More recently, serious questions have been raised, by individuals, industry, and organizations, as to the efficiency and fairness of those changes.

"Effective immediately, the committee will begin to address the task they have been assigned. Within the scope of their assignment, 'to review all aspects of Alberta's hog

Committee Appointed To Review Hog Marketing in Alberta (cont'd)

marketing system', they are free to conduct their examinations as they wish," said the Minister.

"It is hoped that the ultimate conclusion of this entire process will be a new understanding within the industry that will let hog production and marketing prosper in an open and competitive climate."

- 30 -

March 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL RESEARCH FUNDING

Alberta's minister of agriculture, the Honourable Dallas Schmidt, has announced more than $3.1 million in funding has been approved for agricultural research through the province's Farming for the Future program.

The funds, to be awarded in the new fiscal year starting April 1, 1980, will be allocated to 79 projects. Forty-nine are renewals of projects that were initiated last year, the first year of the program. The remaining 30 are new projects that were selected from more than 160 applications received since research awards were last announced in July 1979.

Farming for the Future, first conceived in the fall of 1977, is a five-year program operating on an assured base of $10 million from the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. In its first year, the project awarded almost $2.2 million in research grants to 56 projects. Seven of the projects, either having one-year terms or investigating fruitless areas of research, will be terminated as of March 31, 1980.

The total funding thus far allotted under the program is about $5.3 million. At the current level of project activity, required funding in 1981/82 will be approximately $4 million.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL HORTICULTURE SHOW

Alberta Agriculture, in co-operation with the ornamental industry in the province, is participating in an international horticultural exhibition in Montreal this summer.

This will be the first time the international show, Floralies Internationales, has been hosted in North America. Floralies of the past have been held only in major European cities.

The exhibition will be staged on the former "Man and His World" site of Expo '67 and will be divided into two sections. The Indoor Floralies will run from May 17 to 29 in the Olympic Velodrome and will consist of 6000 m^2 of cut flowers, flowering and foliage plants, cacti, ornamental trees and floral arrangements. The Outdoor Floralies will be held on Ile Notre Dame from May 31 to September 1 and will consist of displays of outdoor plants. Displays will be entered by horticultural producers, commercial organizations, government, trade organizations and horticultural societies. Approximately 2.5 million visitors are expected.

The Alberta exhibit will be an outdoor representation of the province's native grasses, flowers, plants, shrubs and trees. The nearly 1250 m^2 display area will be landscaped in such a way that the flora of each geographical area of Alberta will be represented. A portion of the display will feature horticultural plant selections and introductions made in Alberta. Trees, shrubs, flowers and seed for the display have been donated by the Alberta Nursery Trades Association, Flowers Canada (Alberta Region), and the University of Alberta Devonian Botanic Garden.

Following the show, the Alberta exhibit will become a part of a permanent floral display which will be maintained by the City of Montreal.

For further information, write Les Floralies Internationales de Montréal, Bureau du Commissaire général, 360, rue Saint-Jacques, Montréal, Quebec, H2Y 1P5 or contact the horticulture branch of Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

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March 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAIN AND OILSEED MARKET PROSPECTS EXPLORED AT ACCENT 1980

Past trends and long-term projections point to a bright future for western Canadian grain exports, says Bill Spafford, economist with the Canadian Wheat Board.

Speaking at Accent 1980, Alberta Agriculture's grain and oilseed outlook conference in Calgary, Mr. Spafford said that the quality of the 1979 wheat crop is better than it has been for years. Provided the transportation system runs smoothly during the remainder of this crop year, exports of wheat and wheat flour should reach 14 to 15 million tonnes. This would leave a carryover of a little under 13 million tonnes, a drop of 16 per cent.

Peter Perkins of Herald Grain Ltd., also speaking at Accent 1980, noted the future prospects for world wide feed grain trade are very good as people will require more protein and demand more meat in their diet. However, the line between a surplus and a shortage of feed grains now is very fine.

"If demand continues to expand at rates similar to recent experiences, then the carryover of U.S. corn in 1981 could be down by a billion bushels. That would be barely adequate to supply the increasing needs of the market by then," Mr. Perkins pointed out.

Looking at the oilseed situation, David Bartholomew, manager of the oilseeds department of Merrill Lynch, Chicago, noted that world demand for oilseeds has never been saturated. For only brief periods has supply run ahead of demand. He went on to stress the phenomenal growth in demand for edible vegetable oils.

Looking ahead to 1987, Mr. Bartholomew projected that oilseed production would have to increase by 18 million tonnes if current rates of increase in consumption were to continue to be met. He expressed concern with respect to the world's ability to increase production by this amount.

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Grain And Oilseed Market Prospects Explored At Accent 1980 (cont'd)

Accent 1980 : Market Prospects for Grains and Oilseeds was held at the Trade and Convention Centre in Calgary, March 18, 1980. Sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, the conference featured some of North America's top market analysts. It was designed to provide farmers with information on which they can base their seeding and marketing strategies for the 1980-81 crop year.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LANG PROPOSES PLAN FOR MORE SECURE CROW BENEFIT

Otto Lang, executive vice-president of the Pioneer Grain Company, Limited, has called for the conversion of the Crow rate to a Crow benefit, the extra payment of $100 million or more from governments, and the institution of controlled freight rates on grain, all under the umbrella of a federal-provincial agreement to make the Crow benefit even more secure than the present Crow rate. He also invited the federal government to share with the provinces the monitoring of railway performance, and the provinces to share in the cost of the program.

Speaking to the Alberta Agriculture Grains & Oilseeds Outlook Conference, Mr. Lang, former federal minister of transport, said the change would give growth instead of decline to animal production in the prairies, recognize the Crow as an offset to the customs tariff system, and ensure the railways the money as well as the obligation to maintain adequate equipment and facilities for moving grain.

Mr. Lang said that the low freight rate on grain, compared to normal freight rates on rapeseed oil and on meat, worked against jobs and farm development on the prairies. He said it was enough to ask the federal and provincial treasuries to pay the cost of Crow; we could not reasonably expect them to extend that rate or pay more subsidies for meat and oil as well.

In summary, Mr. Lang proposed:

1. A federal-provincial agreement more secure than the present Crow statute.
2. Involvement of the provinces with funds and with control.
3. Payment of necessary funds to the railways, but a guarantee of performance by the railways.
4. Maintenance of the Crow benefit to farmers but on a historic record of production per acre by areas.
5. Increases in the Crow benefit as costs increase, but decreases if we move to freer trade.
6. A limitation on freight rates on grain to real costs and in any case to 10 per cent of the value of the grain.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MECHANICAL AERATION OF DUGOUT WATER

The quality of water deteriorates in most dugouts during the winter, says Andrew Livingstone, Alberta Agriculture's regional engineering technologist at Barrhead.

"During winter, the ice cover on a dugout prevents the water from dissolving atmospheric oxygen," he says. "Aerobic decomposition of organic material such as algae, water weeds and animal life depletes the existing dissolved oxygen in the water."

Mr. Livingstone goes on to explain that once the dissolved oxygen is depleted, the decomposition proceeds anaerobically. Carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide gases are produced. Carbon dioxide rarely causes problems but hydrogen sulphide will react with the organic material, causing the water to become black and odorous. This is commonly called "black dugout water".

The deterioration of water quality during winter occurs in most dugouts. Even those properly maintained and having a high dissolved oxygen content in the fall are likely to have little or no dissolved oxygen left by the end of winter. Water quality deterioration during the ice-free season can also occur when the dead organic material is present in very large amounts or the dugout is very deep, or when there is insufficient wind action on the dugout surface to effectively mix the water.

The solution to the problem, according to Mr. Livingstone, is to maintain aerobic decomposition in the water throughout the year, especially during the winter. This can be achieved by aeration which assures a sufficient level of dissolved oxygen to control odors and maintain good quality water. Aeration should also be done at intervals during the ice-free season to maintain good water quality. Chemical control of algae and water weeds will still be required.

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Mechanical Aeration Of Dugout Water (cont'd)

There are a number of mechanical methods of aeration. First, aeration can be achieved by pumping water into the atmosphere and allowing it to fall on the dugout surface. A high capacity pump, such as an irrigation pump, provides good aeration. This method is costly and impractical for use in winter, and heavy evaporation losses can occur using this method during the summer.

Another method involves circulating the water in a dugout. This aids in aeration by exposing the entire volume of water to the atmosphere. Circulation can be induced by pumping the surface water down to the bottom, where it displaces the poorer quality water which is then brought to the surface and aerated. This method of aeration is also costly and impractical for use in winter. Also, circulation will tend to lower the average water temperature in the dugout and tend to cause thicker ice accumulation in winter. This may cause problems with frozen intakes and will reduce the available water storage volume during the winter season.

A third method introduces diffused air into the dugout by using a small air compressor or air pump. A feeder line is installed from the compressor location to the dugout bottom and a perforated distribution line is installed across the dugout, 0.5m above the bottom.

Mr. Livingstone recommends permanent installation which allows aeration year-round. Aeration for four to eight continuous hours weekly during the summer and four to eight continuous hours twice weekly during winter is adequate for an average-sized dugout.

Alberta Agriculture's engineering field services branch will be conducting a field trial of compressed air aeration during 1980 and 1981. More information on aeration methods and technical assistance in the design, construction and operation of compressed air aeration systems can be obtained from regional engineering technologists located in Lethbridge, Airdrie, Red Deer, Vermilion, Leduc, Barrhead and Fairview.

March 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING IS NOT NOW AND NEVER AGAIN SHALL BE"

by Fred H. Newcombe

The calendar proclaimed that it was September of 1923. Lured, perhaps by visions of glory, or as a kindlier suggestion, motivated by that burning desire of politicians to devote their lives to the larger service of their fellowmen (are they not?), John Bracken was induced to leave his position as principal of Manitoba Agricultural College to become premier of that province. He did so with an avowed policy of economy — and how many others since then? As one terrific saving of taxpayers' dollars, he fired all seven of the agricultural representatives of which I was one. The saving, incidentally, was estimated to run to the colossal sum of $2,500 per representative per annum.

And so does fate (and the politician) play with our destinies. With two months dismissal pay in my patched overalls (a garment later to be raised to the dignity of 'jeans'), with a new wife, and with a soul full of hope and zeal, I was offered and accepted the job — or position — of district agriculturist at Vegreville. At that time in the perpetually less-favored areas lying east of the Alberta-Saskatchewan border, Vegreville was confused with Veregin and so it was believed to be a colony of Doukabors. It proved to be a thriving (in spite of not having had a DA — or because of that) area peopled by thrifty, hard-working Ukrainians, British, Americans and French-speaking Canadians in that order.

On December 1st, 1923, I reported to Sydney Carlyle, then livestock commissioner and in charge of all four DA's. My first assignment, handed to me by Deputy Minister H.A. Craig, was to sell Christmas turkeys for the egg & poultry marketing service on the railway line to Prince Rupert. On this assignment, I was a dismal failure but I think perhaps Mr. Craig did not learn of it! I was in competition with the established salesmen who knew the location of

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"As It Was In The Beginning Is Not Now And Never Again Shall Be" (cont'd)

the lumber camps. I have not returned to Prince Rupert since that fiasco. However, I am consoled by the memory that the egg and poultry marketing service also was a failure as have been the many ill-advised ventures of government into business.

Somewhat chastened and cut back to size by that experience, I returned to open my office (I use the word loosely) at Vegreville. It would not be strictly correct to say it was luxurious but it was fully furnished with a pot-bellied wood and coal burner and a kitchen table with a chair to match. Incidentally the chair was not really intended for sitting, it having, some years before, given up any pride it may have had in supporting a body. Anyway the department did not consider that the DA had any time to sit! I should add, though, that I was entrusted with the custody of a new, shiny-black, Model T touring car more popularly and perhaps more affectionately known as a Tin Lizzie.

I began my mission of bringing affluence to district agriculture at a salary of $2,500 per annum, maximum for the job being $3,300. Travel allowance was liberal at $3.50 per diem — 50 cents for a meal. My district comprised all of the settled territory east and north of Edmonton but that was purely academic since one could not cover it. One bright spot — in retrospect — was reports. We were required without fail to write a letter to headquarters at the end of each and every month bragging about our accomplishments (or trials) and warning of the mighty deeds we had in mind for the next month. What does it matter? I doubt that anyone ever read them then or are doing so now.

It was the beginning of live hog grading and of the campaign to ship Wiltshire sides to Britain. Any resemblance of hogs in that district to bacon type was purely coincidental and I set out to change that using Junior Swine Clubs as vehicles. And it worked on the hogs, the children enjoyed it, and the parents went along. At one time I had 50 federal boars on loan in the area.

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"As It Was In The Beginning Is Not Now And Never Again Shall Be" (cont'd)

And then there was poultry. Most farm flocks had no pride of ancestry and laid eggs in the spring when the crows returned to the prairies -- perhaps giving the chickens the signal that it was time to 'get with it'. A project titled Accredited Flocks introduced the purchase of baby chicks (thus doing the hens out of their principal function), brooding with stoves, good nutrition, and good housing. This lead to previously unheard-of production though a 200-egg hen was exceptional in those days. It lead also to the less successful project of a farmer-owned hatchery which enjoyed one very prosperous season. Too rapid affluence, pullorum disease in chicks, and the building of a home-made incubator, finally resulted in the bankruptcy of the company in which the DA also lost some dollars.

There were some compensations in the service — salary not being one of them — and among these I count the training and sending to Toronto of 26 provincial Junior Clubbers and 4-Hers. One other was our job as pioneers in introducing the DA service to the farmers of Alberta, whether for better or for worse is a matter of opinion.

I believe I am the senior living ex-DA and there are times when I don't feel a day over 100.

- 30 -

About the Author:

Fred H. Newcombe served as DA in Vegreville from 1924-1935 and in Red Deer from1935-1939. Following service in the Canadian Armed Forces, he returned to the department in 1945 as DA at Edmonton and was appointed supervisor of DA's later that same year. In 1949 he became director of the extension division, a position he held until his retirement in 1959. He was admitted to the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame in 1973.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

March 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA FIRMS TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE UNDER NUTRITIVE PROCESSING AGREEMENT

Ten offers of assistance totalling $91,686 under the Canada-Alberta Nutritive Agreement have been accepted by Alberta firms. The assistance was jointly announced by the Honourable Pierre De Bané, federal minister of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) and the Honourable Dallas Schmidt, Alberta's minister of agriculture.

The Alberta Wheat Pool has accepted seven offers of assistance totalling $56,001 for the establishment of new fertilizer blending plants in seven rural Alberta communities.

The blending operations are expected to complement Alberta Wheat Pool's present fertilizer sales activity to the farming community around each centre. Each plant is expected to provide one full-time job by the third year of operation.

The seven communities in which these plants will be situated are Enchant, Nampa, Wanham, High Prairie, Provost, Coronation and Willingdon.

Hansuk's Country Style Bakery Company Ltd. has accepted an offer of $21,534 for the establishment of their new full product line bakery in Vegreville. Five full-time and four part-time jobs are expected to be created by the new operation.

Radway Fertilizers Ltd. of Radway, Alberta has accepted an offer of $10,451 for the addition of fertilizer blending to its present operations. The addition will serve to meet the needs of farmers in the Radway area for blended fertilizer. The project is expected to create two full and part-time jobs.

Strathcona Leduc Co-op Ltd. in Leduc will soon be able to sell blended bulk fertilizer from its bulk fertilizer supply division. The Co-op has accepted an offer of $3,700 in assistance from the Nutritive Processing Assistance program for the installation of a fertilizer blending system.

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Alberta Firms To Receive Assistance Under Nutritive Processing Agreement (Cont'd)

The Nutritive Processing Assistance Agreement, jointly administered and funded on a 50/50 basis by Canada and Alberta, encourages the establishment, expansion and modernization of nutritive processing operations in rural Alberta. A nutritive product is one that provides nutrition to humans, animals or plants.

- 30 -

BEEKEEPING SHORT COURSE AT VERMILION

Lakeland College is still accepting applications for its Beekeeping Short Course, which starts April 10 and 11 with a two-day Summer Management Seminar. Participants will return for a seminar July 30 and 31 on Fall Management and Wintering Techniques. Both seminars will be held at the residential campus of Lakeland College in Vermilion, Alberta. Cost for the two seminars and a materials package is $50.00.

Dr. Ulf Soehngen, supervisor of apiculture and entomology for Alberta Agriculture, and Derek Fox, a commercial beekeeper from Hairy Hill, will provide instruction and information.

To register contact the Lakeland College Homestudy Office in Vermilion, Alberta. Phone 853 - 2971.

- 30 -

March 24, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSERVATION AWARD PRESENTED TO 4-H MOVEMENT

The 4-H movement in Alberta was presented recently with the Chemcell Junior Conservation award. Sandy Wallick, provincial 4-H home economics specialist with Alberta Agriculture, received the award on behalf of the 4-H movement.

The Chemcell Junior Conservation Award is traditionally awarded to an individual under the age of 16 or a group which has made an outstanding contribution in the area of conservation. The presentation goes to the 4-H movement this year for its work promoting the restoration of the pheasant population throughout Alberta.

The award was presented by the Alberta Fish and Game Association at its annual president's banquet and ball held in Lethbridge. An estimated 500 people attended the ball.

The trophy has not been presented for a number of years owing to a lack of qualified candidates. The "rotating" trophy will be on display at 4-H headquarters in Edmonton and in the eight regional 4-H offices over the next year. It will then be returned to Chemcell.

- 30 -

AGRI-NEWS

March 31, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Springtime Is Pruning Time 1

Questions Food Specialists Are Asked. 2

Farm Welding Schools - Their Beginning (Jubilee Series). 4

Seminar On Renewable Energy 6

Extra Grazing Can Save Energy 8

Feeders' Day Scheduled For June 20 At Brooks 10

Processed Alfalfa Featured In Display At Farm And Ranch Show 11

Western Hog Growers' Association Annual Meeting In Camrose 12

1980 Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Finals. 13

Are Green Potatoes Dangerous? 14

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March 31, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRINGTIME IS PRUNING TIME

Early spring is a good time to prune many types of deciduous trees and shrubs, reports Chris Campbell, horticulturist with Alberta Agriculture.

There are some plants that are excepted from this guideline, however. Spring-flowering ornamentals should not be pruned until after they have bloomed. Since these plants produce flower buds on growth of the previous season, explains Ms. Campbell, pruning them before they bloom would reduce the number of blossoms. Once the flower crop begins to fade, such plants as lilacs, highbush cranberries and double-flowering plums can be pruned.

Pruning is practised to improve the health and vigor of a plant and at the same time preserve its natural form. When pruning, advises Ms. Campbell, remove branches that are weak, aged, diseased or growing in a manner that detracts from the appearance of the tree. Cuts should be made on a slight angle, a little above a living bud. Any cuts over 2.5 cm in diameter should be covered with a good tree dressing.

Pruning at the correct time is important. Severe pruning done after July could result in forced growth which would not have time to mature before the end of the growing season.

Birch and maple trees have special pruning requirements. If pruned in early spring or late fall, these trees will bleed. Ms. Campbell recommends pruning them after they are in leaf, in June or early July.

Alberta Agriculture distributes two worthwhile publications on pruning. The Pruning Manual (Agdex 270/24) and Pruning and Training Fruit Trees (Agdex 210/24-1) are available from the Print Media Branch, 1B Agriculture Building, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

QUESTIONS FOOD SPECIALISTS ARE ASKED

Food specialists receive a variety of questions about food, and the specialists working in Alberta Agriculture's home economics laboratory in Edmonton are no exception.

The following questions are only a few of the enquiries fielded by the food specialists. Perhaps they are questions you have wondered about, as well.

Question: How can a label on a loaf of 100 per cent whole wheat bread say "contains no preservatives" when it does contain potassium bromate?

Answer: Perhaps you are confusing the word preservative with the word additive. Potassium bromate is an additive that is used to speed up the natural aging process that improves the breadmaking quality. It is not a preservative.

Question: What is the difference between whole wheat flour that has been stone ground and one that has been ground with a hammermill?

Answer: They are very similar. Both contain the entire grain including bran and germ. The one from the hammermill using small hammers will have a finer texture.

Question: Is it true that soybeans have toxins? If so, are the toxins destroyed by cooking?

Answer: Mrs. K. Strausz, provincial toxicology analyst reports that:
Soybeans, like other beans will cause problems (including death) only for people who are lacking a particular enzyme in their system. Blood tests can reveal whether the enzyme is missing. It is a very rare condition.
People who have eaten beans previously will not have trouble with soybeans, nor any other kind of bean, unless they eat a huge quantity.

- (cont'd) -

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Questions Food Specialists Are Asked (cont'd)

Question: Is it true that the so-called caffeine-free brands of instant coffee contain almost as much caffeine as ordinary instant coffee?

Answer: No. It is true that ordinary instant coffee has less caffeine than coffee brewed from ground coffee. However decaffeinated has considerably less.

Consumers' Union produced the following comparison for a 5½ oz. cup:

Brewed coffee	70 to 100 mg
Instant coffee	30 to 75 mg
Decaffeinated instant coffee	2 mg

Question: How do you cook pearl barley in a pressure cooker?

Answer: According to Presto's pressure cooking instruction booklet:

Pressure cooking of apple sauce, cranberries, rhubarb, pearl barley, split peas or pea soup is not recommended. These foods tend to foam, froth and sputter and may sometimes clog the vent pipe.

Question: Do growth stimulants fed to beef cattle affect the eating quality of the beef?

Answer: Dr. Roy Berg, University of Alberta, reports that:

The only growth stimulant used now is a hormonal implant. It makes the steers grow more quickly — like a bull.

It has no direct effect on the eating quality of the beef.

The only indirect effect is, that because of faster growth, there could be either more or less fat than there would have been without the hormonal implant.

Dr. Berg is currently doing research on the eating qualities of meat from bulls. It appears that this meat is just as acceptable as meat from steers.

March 31, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FARM WELDING SCHOOLS – THEIR BEGINNING

by Walter L. McNary
Former District Agriculturist at Sangudo and Lacombe

The fall of 1954 followed the wettest summer in history. I had just taken over as the district agriculturist at Sangudo following a summer training session with Lloyd Rasmussen at Lacombe. The number of farm calls I could make at that time was pretty limited because of the condition of the roads with their "gumbo" surfaces. However, some of the farmers living close by or on gravel Highway No.53 did get into town to visit the new DA.

During one of these visits, our discussion got around to farm machinery and machinery repairs. It was pointed out that a number of farmers were getting their own welders and were learning to weld. A few years previously I had had the privilege of working with a number of farmer veterans in North Dakota where the power company and farm welder manufacturers had gone together with the Veterans Administration to put on a farm welding school. A local welder provided the instruction. As this had worked out so well, I suggested to the Sangudo farmers that a similar school might be organized there. Interest was high and 20 farmers each agreed to put up his share of the costs.

Alberta Power was contacted and agreed to provide the necessary power free of charge. Welding companies agreed to supply welders if the farmers provided the welding rods.

About this time, I had occasion to talk the matter over with Stu Graham who was supervisor of DA's. My problem was to find a suitable instructor. Stu thought a welding school was such a good idea that perhaps it could be made into a program available to all DA districts at no cost to farmers. He then got Les Reid, our newly appointed agricultural engineer, working on the project. Les carried on the negotiations with the power companies and the welding supply companies. He also located a farmer-welder instructor willing to travel from

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Farm Welding Schools — Their Beginning (cont'd)

district to district during the winter months in order to put on one-week welding schools. This farmer-welder was Jim Marr of Millet.

Because of the organizational logistics, the first welding school was put on at Gibbons and the second one was at Sangudo.

Farm welding schools have proven to be very popular with farmers and are still going strong. At the present time there are three mobile units which transport the welders and all the equipment for the schools. Incidentally, Jim Marr is still one of the instructors and there are three schools carried on simultaneously from November through April.

In my years as a DA, I always found that farmers' needs and ideas combined with some organizing assistance from the DA and support from his superiors made for good workable programs.

- 30 -

Editor's Note:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEMINAR ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

Alberta Alternatives, a seminar on renewable energy, will be held on April 11 and 12 at Olds College. Energy experts from all over western Canada will share their knowledge of alternative energy sources.

Dr. H.M. (Herb) Lapp, professor of agricultural engineering at the University of Manitoba, will be the keynote speaker of the two-day conference. He will talk on Saturday afternoon about "Biogas Production from Animal Manure". He is recognized as a top authority on the subject, having co-authored a thesis with the same title. Dr. Lapp toured biogas production facilities throughout Canada and the United States in his studies of the topic. He is also very active with the Biomass Energy Institute in Winnipeg, and alcohol production research.

There will be nine other authorities on renewable energy participating in sessions at the conference. There will also be other experts brought in to participate in the "'Nuts 'N Bolts Workshop" to be held Saturday morning. These delegates to the workshop are people who actually have functioning alternative energy systems.

"This is where there will be people helping people. Those who have done it before, and have working solar and wind systems will be on hand to help others by answering questions and getting involved," said Dennis McKernan of Olds College who is co-ordinating the seminar.

Friday evening and Saturday morning there will be a display with Olds College, the Kananaskis Centre for Environmental Research, the Biomass Energy

- (cont'd) -

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Seminar On Renewable Energy (cont'd)

Institute and Solar Energy Society of Canada, Alberta chapter, having booths. There will also be equipment dealers displaying solar hardware, wind generators and energy conservation materials. The public is invited to attend the display at no cost.

Further information about the seminar is available from the department of continuing education at Olds College in Olds, Alberta. Registration deadline is April 4 for a maximum of 175 participants.

- 30 -

March 31, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EXTRA GRAZING CAN SAVE ENERGY

Dr. R. Hironaka, Animal Nutritionist
Agriculture Canada Lethbridge Research Station

In an energy-conscious world, cattle producers can increase the efficiency of production and conserve fossil fuels by seeding grasses that grow earlier in the spring, or remain green longer during dry spells or in the fall, than native or presently cultivated species.

Cattle grazing fresh green forage gain weight faster than when fed the same grass preserved as hay. The difference in animal performance between grazed forage and hay is often attributed to the high moisture content and implied softness of the fresh forage. At the Lethbridge Research Station, fresh alfalfa and Altai wild rye were frozen and dried (freeze-dried) to simulate fresh forage or over-dried to simulate hay. Samples of each of the forages were weighed and put in nylon bags then placed in the rumens of fistulated steers to permit digestion of the samples. Nylon bags were removed at intervals and the loss of dry matter, protein, and ash from the nylon bags was used as a measure of digestion in the rumen.

For the first four hours, dry matter loss was about 50 per cent faster from freeze-dried alfalfa and nearly 100 per cent faster from freeze-dried Altai wild rye than from their air-dried counterparts. Although the dry matter loss from the freeze-dried forages continued to be greater than from the air-dried forage, the differences became less pronounced as digestion continued. By 24 hours, the differences in dry matter loss were about 15 per cent. The rapid dry matter loss from the freeze-dried forages for the first four hours after consumption indicates that fresh forage is digested rapidly, resulting in a high level of intake and, consequently, more live weight gain. Therefore, differences in performance of cattle grazing on fresh forage and those fed dried hay from similar forage are not due to moisture content.

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Extra Grazing Can Save Energy (Cont'd)

Protein and ash digested faster than the total dry matter of the forages and levels of protein and ash were more than adequate for all animals in the trial. Therefore, it appears that the carbohydrate portion of the forages limited the rate of digestion.

Since fresh green forage is digested faster and to a greater extent than the same forage made into hay, cattle gains on fresh pasture may be expected to approach those obtained in feedlots with high concentrate diets. Considering the savings in labor and in fossil fuels by grazing green forage, the overall economy of greater use of grazing green forage may be an attractive alternative method of beef production.

- 30 -

March 31, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEEDERS' DAY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 20 AT BROOKS

The 59th Annual University of Alberta Feeders' Day will be held this year at Brooks on June 20. Feeders' Day is used by the department of animal science as a means of presenting results of livestock and poultry experiments completed during the preceding year.

The first Feeders' Day was held at the University Farm in 1922 when results of 10 experiments on feeding and management of swine, sheep and steers were reported by Professors A.A. Dowell, J.E. Lattimer and J.E. Bowstead The University Farm was the site for the next 53 Feeders' Days. As the city of Edmonton surrounded the farm, the rural atmosphere of Feeders' Day was lost and for the past four years, Feeders' Day has been taken to the country with enthusiastic response. Vermilion, Ponoka, Grand Prairie and Barrhead have each hosted the event.

The department of animal science, currently chaired by Dr. R.T. Berg, has grown to 14 academic staff and its research activities have broadened to include basic studies, but a concerted attempt is made to engage in research which is relevant to livestock production. The 1979 Feeders' Day Report contained 31 articles on dairy and beef cattle feeding, beef breeding, swine feeding, carcass grading and quality, adaptation to cold, and brush control. The 1980 offering will be fully as inclusive.

Feeders' Day provides an opportunity for livestock producers and researchers to share their experiences and concerns. Plan now to set aside June 20 to attend the 59th Annual Feeders' Day of The University of Alberta at Brooks, Alberta. A published report of all experiments completed will be available.

- 30 -

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March 31, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROCESSED ALFALFA FEATURED IN DISPLAY AT FARM AND RANCH SHOW

Information about dehydrated alfalfa was available at a display sponsored by the Alberta Dehy Association and Alberta Agriculture at the Canadian Western Farm and Ranch Show, held at Edmonton Northlands, March 24 to 28. "Dehydrated Alfalfa — a new leaf" was the theme of the display which presented the advantages of feeding dehydrated pellets and cubes.

Many farmers use processed alfalfa pellets and cubes because nutrients are supplied in a form that is easy to transport, store and handle. Processed alfalfa is an excellent source of protein, energy, vitamins and minerals for all classes of farm livestock.

Feeding trials at the University of Nebraska indicate, however, that dehydrated alfalfa has yet another benefit as a cattle feed : it is high in rumen by-pass protein. This means that the protein is not broken down in the animal's rumen, but is more efficiently digested in the small intestine, where utilization of the available protein is improved.

At present, 14 plants in Alberta process alfalfa. Production of dehydrated alfalfa pellets and cubes by these plants for the year ending May 31, 1980 is projected to be about 195,000 tons.

- 30 -

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March 31, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTERN HOG GROWERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING IN CAMROSE

The Western Hog Growers' Association annual meeting will be held on Thursday and Friday, April 10 and 11 in the Norsemen Motor Inn in Camrose.

The feature speaker at the meeting is a native Albertan who raises pigs in Snowflake, Arizona. Jim Caldwell has over 5,000 sows and is interested in low cost construction and operation of swine buildings. In addition to speaking on Thursday afternoon, he will be the banquet speaker that evening when he will tell about his recent trip to China.

Agricultural engineer, Rod Constable, well known in Alberta for his innovative thinking in building design, will be talking about new designs and construction.

Further information about the meeting can be obtained from any of the directors of the association or from secretary, Bill Devereux of Fort Saskatchewan.

- 30 -

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March 31, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 PROVINCIAL 4-H PUBLIC SPEAKING FINALS

The 1980 Provincial 4-H Public Speaking Finals will be held April 18 and 19 at Edmonton Northlands. The general public is invited to attend the competition. A communications seminar will highlight Saturday's events.

The Public Speaking Finals bring together the nine top 4-H public speakers in the province, three from each of the north, central and south regions. Each candidate will give a four-to-six minute extemporaneous speech which he or she has had some time to prepare and a one-to-two minute impromptu speech.

Greetings from the province, delivered by Dallas Schmidt, Minister of Agriculture, will get events under way on Friday evening.

The communications seminar will begin Saturday morning. Janet Lockington, clinical social worker at the University of Alberta, will lead the seminar. Ms. Lockington has had extensive involvement in the area of communications skill and her past credits include workshops for universities, the YWCA, and Big Sisters. Topics for discussion during the seminar will range fron non-verbal communication to self awareness.

A banquet on Saturday night will round out the events. Guest speaker will be Dr. Bob Church of the animal sciences department, University of Calgary.

- 30 -

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March 31, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARE GREEN POTATOES DANGEROUS?

Are green potatoes dangerous? In answer to that question, the food advisory division of Agriculture Canada offers the following information.

Normally, potatoes contain small amounts of related substances called total glycoalkaloids (TGA). These are partly responsible for the characteristic flavor of potatoes.

Upon harvesting, the TGA content is low, but during storage conditions it may increase greatly, some varieties more than others. Bruising, cutting or skinning, exposure to sun or artificial light and storage at temperatures over 10° C (50° F) all tend to increase the development of TGA in potatoes.

As the TGA level rises, the bitter flavor increases and if the level is very high, the potatoes could actually cause severe digestive discomfort. Because of the bitter flavor, however, you are most unlikely to eat toxic potatoes.

TGA tends to be concentrated in a layer immediately under the potato skin so that when peeled, between 60 to 80 per cent of the TGA is normally removed. This doesn't mean that baked potatoes are dangerous – if potatoes are properly stored, the skins would contain only a minimal amount of TGA.

Where does the green color come from? When potatoes are exposed to light – either sunlight or artificial light – they often turn green, due to the chlorophyll in the tuber. And since exposure to light also increases the TGA level, there's a relationship between the two. Some varieties turn green more readily than others and so the slight greening of potatoes in retail stores may not necessarily mean a high TGA level.

Store potatoes in the dark, between 4.4° C and 10° C (40° and 50° F). If the potatoes are in transparent bags, and especially if they have been washed, keep them away from light or transfer them to an opaque bag. Cut off the green spots if there are any, but if there are several very green potatoes in the bag, return it to the store.

- 30 -

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AGRI-NEWS

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CANADIANA
MAY 02 1980

April 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Beginning Farmer Loan Program Announced 1
Reminiscences of Ira Lapp (Jubilee Series) 3
Rat Control Personnel Meet In Lloydminster 5
HostEx 1980 6
Alberta Home Economics Association Conference In Calgary 8
National 4-H Citizenship Seminar 9
The Battle Of Equality 10
Ag-Expo 1980 Results 11
"Chemical Daze" 15
Coming Agriculture Events 17

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April 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BEGINNING FARMER LOAN PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Alberta's minister of agriculture, the Honourable Dallas Schmidt, has announced the details of a new program to assist beginning farmers in Alberta.

"The future of agriculture in Alberta relies on the recruitment of young farmers into the industry," the minister said in an address to the Legislative Assembly. "In recognition of the difficulties confronting a starting farmer, such as rising land values and escalated interest rates, a modified beginning farmer loan program will be instituted by this government."

The new program stems from a review of the loan programs administered by the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC). Commencing April 1, 1980, the ADC will withdraw the last resort lending provision for the beginning farmer loan program.

In addition the program will be modified to consider the applicant as an individual. The financial status of the parent or guardian will no longer be considered in the application.

The main criteria of the new program are as follows:

- Once-in-a-lifetime loan to establish a workable farm package.
- maximum loan amount of $200,000 and an upper limit of $300,000 on the loan plus assets.
- a preferred interest rate of 12 percent for the term of the loan with a six percent earned interest rebate for the first five years.
- adequate experience and repayment ability on the part of the applicant.

Funding for the program will be provided by the Alberta Investment Division of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund. It is anticipated that the new program will provide upwards of $75 million in low-interest loans to young farmers.

In addition to the new beginning farmer program, modifications have been made to the ADC's Direct Loan Programs.

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Beginning Farmer Loan Program Announced (cont'd)

These programs are designed to provide financing on a preferred interest basis to those individuals currently engaged in farming.

The Corporation will continue as a lender of last resort in an effort to develop and maintain viable farm units.

The Direct Loan Program will provide assistance to primary producers with long term loans at a preferred interest rate of 12 percent with an annual interest rebate of three per-cent for a five-year period.

To those farmers who do not qualify for direct loans, an expanded Direct Farm Package will provide special assistance at a preferred interest rate of 12 percent.

The minister summarized the program as follows:

1. Beginning farmers will have the availability of six percent (6%) money for a period of five years to allow these individuals to get their feet firmly planted.

2. Direct financing will be available to the established farmer at nine per cent (9%) for five years, while for others there will be the availability of loans at the preferred interest rate of 12 percent.

- 30 -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REMINISCENCES OF IRA LAPP

District Agriculturist, Brooks Area 1943 - 1973

Alberta Agriculture's district office in Brooks, often called the "Farm Labor Office" and sometimes called the "Veterinary Office", handled a wide range of activities, recalls Ira Lapp, former district agriculturist in the area.

"Such matters as fertilizers, crops, varieties, trees, soils, livestock, marketing, irrigation, field days, and short courses were all handled as well as Junior Clubs (later called 4-H)," reports the former DA.

"As land levelling on a large scale was practically unknown in the early days in this over one-million-acre area with some 200,000 acres irrigated or "under the ditch", farm labor in the form of irrigators was the number one need in dry spells, which prevailed often," he explains.

When Ira Lapp first arrived by train and was met by the Eastern Irrigation District manager, it was pointed out that since there was no employment office in the area, the DA could give the most service by concentrating on finding and placing competent irrigators or those wishing to learn. The first day he was on the job there was a meeting of the water users who were assured every effort would be made to fill their irrigation needs.

"A good irrigator was expected to almost run water uphill on five to 10 acres per day," Mr. Lapp recalls, "so up to 2000 men per year were placed through the office."

"I remember one dry June day when crops were burning, the office had over 30 desperate calls for irrigators. Calls to employment offices from Edmonton south brought no men. So I called Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. Two days later, in came 25 men by train from Moose Jaw, but it had rained — poured — steadily for 20 hours and was still raining. Only a few

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Reminiscences Of Ira Lapp (cont'd)

of the 30 farmers thought that they could use a man under these circumstances. Was there ever a busy DA finding alternate jobs and paying hotel bills!" chuckles the ex-DA as he recalls the incident.

At the time of the DA's arrival as a new employee in the district, there had not been a resident veterinarian in the area for eight years. The provincial veterinarian gave excellent assistance and advice when he could call, but he couldn't carry the entire workload. The new DA had taken some veterinary courses at university, and his diagnosis and suggested treatment had, in some cases, given good results. Thus, he reports, "It was not unusual to return at a late hour from an outlying evening meeting to find a farmer waiting for immediate help with his ailing livestock."

Mr. Lapp remembers other experiences dealing with animal health. "Many farmers, not having cash to pay their legal fees, had settled their bills with a local lawyer by giving him swine. For sometime, I was called nearly every evening to inspect about 600 swine!"

And it wasn't just the DA who got involved with animals needing help. Mr. Lapp remembers a new young M.D. who said he had performed caesarians on humans so was willing to try his skills on a heifer in trouble when the DA failed to get results in the normal way.

In retrospect, Mr. Lapp says there was never a dull moment. "Phone calls usually ceased by midnight and seldom began before 5.30 a.m. It was interesting, in fact intriguing, with everything from bees to peas."

And now, he concludes, with national employment service, mechanized land levelling, border dikes, sprinkler irrigation, alfalfa dehydrating plants, irrigation specialists and five veterinarians, everything is very different. Mr. Lapp quotes an old farmer to sum things up: "Things are moving so fast it takes two men to see them go by."

- 30 -

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAT CONTROL PERSONNEL MEET IN LLOYDMINSTER

Rat control personnel from Alberta and Saskatchewan met in Lloydminster March 18 to 20, 1980 to co-ordinate and strengthen the united efforts of the two provinces to control rats.

More than 65 people, including pest control officers and extension personnel, attended the meeting, 44 from Saskatchewan and 21 from Alberta. Representatives from all six extension regions in Saskatchewan and from the seven border municipalities in Alberta were in attendance.

Cliff Barrett, supervisor of animal pest control with Alberta Agriculture, says it's evident there is keen interest on both sides of the border in getting the rat problem under control. He observed that Saskatchewan is making gains in organizing regional programs for control of rats, while Alberta continues its fight to remain rat free.

Most rat infestations in Alberta during the 1979-80 fiscal year occurred along the eastern border and were brought largely under control. Mr. Barrett reports 10 infestations still active out of a total of 107 infestations during the year.

Speakers at the meeting discussed rat control techniques, progress and problems that are being encountered and other related topics. Dr. R. Sadlier of Simon Fraser University in British Columbia reported on warfarin resistance in mice, a subject on which he has students working.

Cliff Barrett notes that the pest control officer's job is frequently a thankless one, but it's only through his efforts and the support of the general public that the rat control program will continue to be successful.

A joint meeting of rat control personnel is held every second year. It is a welcome opportunity to exchange information and provide encouragement for pest control officers on both sides of the border.

- 30 -

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April 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOSTEX 1980

Alberta will be represented by eight food processing companies at HostEx '80 (the Canadian International Restaurant Hotel and Motel Show), scheduled to take place in Toronto from April 20 - 23.

HostEx, the largest foodservice trade show in Canada, will provide Alberta food processors with an excellent opportunity to market their products to foodservice buyers in Eastern Canada.

The foodservice industry, i.e. the hotel, restaurant and institutional segments, has shown tremendous growth in the last decade and is a very important market for Canadian and Alberta agricultural products.

The Alberta companies will be demonstrating and providing samples of their products which range from frozen ethnic foods to portion-cuts of meat.

Flaked and formed Philet Meats offer such advantages for foodservice use as a taste and texture comparable to those of more expensive cuts, a faster cooking time and no waste.

Canbra Foods will be featuring Tasty Fry, a canola oil-based frying shortening. Canola is the new name for rapeseed products.

W.P. Foods Ltd. produce frozen, unbaked pastry and tart and pie shells that enable you to create quality pastries with a minimum of time and labor.

Burns will bring to HostEx a variety of their Pride of Canada meats. This year marks Burns' 90th anniversary.

Highland Produce Ltd. will return with the Egg Hero, an egg omelette formed to fit inside a hamburger bun.

Heritage Foods Ltd. will be offering their Cheemo-brand perogies. These bite-size dumplings are novel for snacks and hors d'oeuvres as well for as a main course.

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HostEx 1980 (cont'd)

Pak-Well Produce will feature Alberta netted gem potatoes. These potatoes have a mealy, moist texture that makes them a first-rate baker.

Eau Claire, a brand new Alberta product, is bottled mineral water which comes from cool, clear Rocky Mountain springs.

Alberta Agriculture's Food Marketing Branch co-ordinates the companies' participation in HostEx.

- 30 -

April 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA HOME ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE IN CALGARY

"Something Called Success" is to be the theme of the Alberta Home Economics Association Conference being held in Calgary, April 24, 25 and 26. Home economists from across Alberta will explore their success potential.

Keyncte speaker at the conference will be Bob Proctor, an individual who has been teaching an eight-part seminar on self improvement since 1973. In that time, over 25,000 people have attended his seminars.

During the three-day conference, each participant will be encouraged to define success in her own terms. Topics to be discussed include Financial Planning for Women; Assertiveness; Career Change Techniques; Food, Fitness and Personal Success; Women in Administration — Where Are They? and others.

Over 200 home economists are expected to attend the conference. The annual meeting of the Alberta Home Economics Association will be held in conjunction with the conference.

- 30 -

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Alberta
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Communications Division

April 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL 4-H CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR

Six Alberta 4-H members will be among the 54 delegates from across Canada who will meet in Ottawa on May 3 - 7 to attend the National 4-H Citizenship Seminar, sponsored by the Canadian 4-H Council.

Julie Moltzahn of Bashaw; Paula Halowath of Rumsey; Patti Shandro of Willingdon; Lorri Holthe of Turin; Marie Kemp of Millet and Carmen Brown of Galahad will learn how youth can become involved in government. The conference will increase the 4-H delegates' political awareness of the political system, and they will obtain a better understanding of the Canadian Government systems and how they function.

The Alberta Wheat Pool, a major supporter of 4-H in Alberta for 50 years, sponsors an annual banquet for the delegates, their parents and club leaders prior to the members departure. This year's banquet at the Edmonton Plaza Hotel will feature Mr. Stan Schellenberger, MP for the Wetaskiwin constituency, as the guest speaker.

- 30 -

Alberta
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April 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE BATTLE OF EQUALITY

"You have more than I do."

"Do not!"

"You always get more than me."

"It's the same!"

"That's not fair. Mom!"

Is this a common scene in your home?

Siblings at certain ages constantly demand that everything be exactly fair, says Shirley Lorimer, a fourth year family studies student in the faculty of home economics at the University of Alberta. "Under normal conditions children squabble. It is part of being a child," she says.

Ms. Lorimer is working as a practicum student with Alberta Agriculture's family living specialist.

The Gesell Institutes' "Child Behaviour From Birth to Ten" suggests ways for us to deal with children's demands for equality and exactness, she reports. We can simply ignore the demands and stick to our own decisions or attempt to be fair while explaining that life is not always fair.

We can be utterly fair. Use humor and go to extremes. Measure with a ruler, weigh out portions and count the pieces. Most children soon tire of this.

Or, we can let the children solve their own problem. Allow one of two children to divide the objects in question. Then allow the other child to have first choice. The children take the responsibility for fairness.

Ms. Lorimer emphasizes that we must guard against putting the accent on 'getting' rather than on being fair and sincere. "Life is not always fair. Children must learn this concept as a part of growing up."

- 30 -

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April 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AG-EXPO 1980 RESULTS

Following is a list of exhibitors and prize winners at Ag-Expo which was held at Lethbridge.

Grand Champion (Best Sample From Classes 1 - 24)

Jimmy Miklos, Wrentham

Kizema Memorial Trophy (Best Sample From Classes 1 - 8)

Art Strain, Foremost

PEDIGREED CEREAL CLASSES

Class 1

Pedigreed Hard Red Spring Wheat

1. L. & W. Holman, Box 12, Wayne, Alberta
2. Don Ostergard Seeds, Box 2550, Drumheller, Alberta
3. Peter Nakonechny, Box 26, Ruthilda, Saskatchewan

Class 2

Pedigreed Hard Red Winter Wheat

1. Waterton Seeds, Box 58, Hillspring, Alberta
2. Art. G. Strain, Foremost, Alberta
3. Don Welsh, Box 561, Milk River, Alberta

Class 3

Pedigreed Durum

1. Art Strain, Box 356, Foremost, Alberta
2. Tony Crooysman, Bow Island, Alberta
3. Bankview Farms, Wrentham, Alberta

- (cont'd) -

Ag-Expo 1980 Results (cont'd)

Class 4

Pedigreed 2 -Row Barley

1. Peter Nakonechny, Box 26, Ruthilda, Saskatchewan
2. Forrest Balderson, Magrath, Alberta
3. Peter Nakonechny, Box 26, Ruthilda, Saskatchewan

Class 5

Pedigreed 6-Row Barley

1. Ernest Mercer 1003 - 30 Street, South Lethbridge, Alberta
2. Carl Goetjen, R.R. 2, Carstairs, Alberta
3. Anderson Seed Growers, Barrhead, Alberta

Class 6

Pedigreed Oats

1. Harold Moffit & Sons, Box 224, Radway, Alberta
2. Petrussa Farms, Big Valley, Alberta
3. Sulo Luomo, Box 490, Trochu, Alberta

Class 7

Pedigreed Soft White Spring Wheat

1. Tony Crooysman, Bow Island, Alberta
2. Burton Farms, Tilley, Alberta
3. Klassen Farms, Box 75, Rosemary, Alberta

Class 8

Pedigreed Utility Wheat

1. Ken Long, Cardston, Alberta
2. Haney Farms, Picture Butte, Alberta
3. Tony Crooysman, Bow Island, Alberta

Ag-Expo 1980 Results (cont'd)

PEDIGREED FORAGE CLASSES

Class 9

Pedigreed Grass Seed

1. Ken Long, Cardston, Alberta
2. River Road Farms, Box 576, Milk River, Alberta
3. Randal Hadland, Dawson Creek, British Columbia

Class 10

Pedigreed Legume Seed - Any Kind

1. Jim Burton, R.R. 1, Tilley, Alberta
2. Svend Rasmussen, Box 1684, Brooks, Alberta
3. Ken Long Seeds, Cardston, Alberta

OILSEED CLASSES

Class 20

Pedigreed Argentine Rapeseed

1. Walter Roszko, Rochfort Bridge, Alberta
2. E. Wilbur Stewart, Big Valley, Alberta
3. Cunningham Farms, Kelsey, Alberta

Class 21

Pedigreed Polish Rapeseed

1. Art Strain, Foremost, Alberta
2. Bruce M. Donald, R.R. 1, Grande Prairie, Alberta
3. Frank Kastelic, Box 7, Sangudo, Alberta

- (cont'd) -

Ag-Expo 1980 Results (cont'd)

Class 22

Rapeseed - Argentine Type

1. S. & M. LaValley Farms, SS-1-3-38, Lethbridge, Alberta
2. Rita Deurloo, Box 7, Granum, Alberta
3. Doug Campbell, Box 145, Coaldale, Alberta

Class 23

Rapeseed - Polish Type

1. Art Strain, Foremost, Alberta
2. Jean Morrison, R.R. 4, Vermilion, Alberta

Class 24

Pedigreed Flax

1. Doug Campbell, Box 145, Coaldale, Alberta
2. Art Strain, Box 356, Foremost, Alberta
3. Lloyd Cuthbert, Hughenden, Alberta

April 7, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"CHEMICAL DAZE"

Have you got any questions on herbicides old or new? Have you been wondering what's new and how to use it? What about new developments and old tricks in sprayers and their calibration? "We've got the people with the information and the answers," says Jack Hazelwood, district agriculturist at Three Hills.

The Acme Agricultural Society, Alberta Agriculture, and the M.D. of Kneehill have combined forces to bring you "Chemical Daze" — a two-day herbicide and sprayer meeting to be held in the Acme Community Center on April 16 and 17 from 9:00 - 4:30. It will be a very informative meeting with good representation from the major agricultural herbicide companies and government resource people.

Following is a summary of the agenda:

April 16th:

9:00 - noon	Introduction to Herbicides
	Monsanto
	May & Baker
1:00 - 4:30	Elanco
	Uniroyal
	DuPont
	Allied
	Hoechst
	Development of Herbicides

April 17th:

9:00 - noon	Chipman
	Green Cross
	Dow Chemical
	Cyanamid
	Velsicol

- (cont'd) -

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"Chemical Daze" (cont'd)

1:00 - 4.30	Observe sprayers
	Sprayer components
	Sprayer calibration

In addition to individual information presentations, there will be herbicide company displays, a sprayer display and door prizes. Lunch will be included in the registration fee. If you have any questions, call Alberta Agriculture - 443-5503 or Norm Soder - 443-5541.

- 30 -

COMING AGRICULTURE EVENTS

1980

Alberta Home Economics Association Conference
Calgary, Alberta ..... April 24 - 26

Indoor Floralies
Les Floralies Internationales de Montreal
Olympic Velodrome, Montreal ..... May 17 - 29

Outdoor Floralies
Les Floralies Internationales de Montreal
Ile Notre-Dame, Montreal ..... May 31 - September 1

Economic Development Outlook
Lodge Hotel
Lethbridge, Alberta ..... June 4 - 5

Alberta Women's Institutes Convention
Olds College
Olds, Alberta ..... June 9 - 12

Alberta Pork Congress - 6th Annual Meeting
Red Deer Exhibition Grounds
Red Deer, Alberta ..... June 10 - 12

University of Alberta - 59th Annual Feeders' Day
Heritage Motor Inn
Brooks, Alberta ..... June 20

National Seminar
Ottawa, Canada ..... June 21 - 29

Alberta Association of REA's Ltd
Red Deer Lodge
Red Deer, Alberta ..... June 24 - 25

Canadian Hereford Association - Annual Meeting
Niagara Falls, Ontario ..... June 27 & 28

The Royal International Agricultural Show
Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, England ..... June 30 - July 3

Calgary Stampede
Calgary Exhibition Grounds
Calgary, Alberta ..... July 4 - 13

Provincial Agriculture Service Board Tour
Leduc County ..... July 8 - 11

Canadian Galloway Association - Annual Meeting & Stock Show
Claresholm Agri-Plex
Claresholm, Alberta ..... July 12 & 13

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Coming Agriculture Events (cont'd)

Canadian Home Economics Association Conference
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . July 14 - 17

1980 Klondike Days
Edmonton Exhibition Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . July 16 - 26

Alberta Women's Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta . . . . . July 21 - 25

Beef Breeding Research Field Day
University Ranch
Kinsella, Alberta . . . . . July 25

Canadian Junior Hereford Association - National Red Rose Bonanza Show
Red Deer Exhibition
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . July 27 - 29

Lethbridge & District Exhibition Association
Whoop-Up Days
Exhibition Grounds
Lethbridge, Alberta . . . . . July 28 - August 2

Alberta District Agriculturists Diamond Jubilee Reunion
Edmonton Inn
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . August 2

Agricultural Institute of Canada - Annual Meeting
Jubilee Auditorium and University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . August 3 - 6

Canadian Society for Horticultural Science
Tory Building, Room B5
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . August 3 - 6

Canadian Society of Extension - Annual Conference
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . August 3 - 7

Canadian Pest Management - Annual Meeting
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . August 5 & 6

The Association of the Faculties of Agriculture in Canada
Lister Hall and Faculty Club
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta . . . . . August 6

Canadian Agricultural Extension Council
Truro, Nova Scotia . . . . . September 16 - 18

Coming Agriculture Events (cont'd)

National Dairy Council of Canada - 1980 Annual Convention
Convention Centre
Four Seasons Hotel
Calgary, Alberta ..... September 22 - 25

Northland's Farm Fair '80
Northland Grounds
Edmonton, Alberta ..... November 2 - 14

Women of Unifarm Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton, Alberta ..... November 5 - 6

Alberta Beekeepers Association - Annual Convention
Mayfield Inn
Edmonton, Alberta ..... November 5 - 7

Agricultural Business Management Seminar
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta ..... November 12 - 14

Alberta Polled Hereford Club - Annual Meeting
Red Deer, Alberta ..... December 7

Western Canadian Agricultural Economics Conference
Banff Centre
Banff, Alberta ..... December 8 - 10

1981

Unifarm Annual Convention
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton ..... January 12 - 16

Alberta Rapeseed Growers Association - Annual Meeting
Macdonald Hotel
Edmonton ..... January 29 - 30

Alberta Dairymen's Association - Annual Convention
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta ..... February 2 - 4

Government Relations and Results Seminar
Red Deer, Alberta ..... February 2 - 4

Alberta Polled Hereford - Annual Show & Sale
Alberta Hereford Centre
Innisfail, Alberta ..... March 14

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AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
MAY 02 1980

April 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Irrigation Zone D.A. Work In The 1950's (Jubilee Series) 1
Rapeseed Diseases 4
Disease Resistant Alfalfa 7
Why Do Baby Lambs Die? 8
The Alberta Green Certificate Farm Training Program 10
New Zealand Apiculturist Visits Alberta 12
Agricultural Hall Of Fame Nominations Open 13

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April 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IRRIGATION ZONE D.A. WORK IN THE 1950'S

by R.A. Simmons

Some 30 years ago Peter Jamieson, D.A. at Lethbridge, welcomed me to that southern area as a very green assistant D.A. At that time the Alberta Department of Agriculture operated from the basement of the old court house, right next to the prisoners' cells. The newly created irrigation extension service, headed by Cy McAndrews and his one-man staff, shared the offices.

The Lethbridge D.A. Office served the municipalities of Lethbridge, Barons, Warner and Taber as well as the special area up to the Bow River. Each of the districts had active dairy, beef and grain 4-H clubs, which meant many late night meetings and tours in all kinds of weather. However, association with these dedicated members, club leaders and parents was a rewarding experience.

Many of the successes and some of the disappointments have been recalled by graduated 4-H members over the intervening years. One of the early 4-H calf club sales, for example, made headlines when a calf sold for $1 a pound in times when cattle prices were usually in the 20¢ range.

The Lethbridge D.A. area included much of the irrigation land south of the Bow River and most of the land being brought under irrigation in the Saint Mary's and Bow River developments. As most of these additions were being undertaken in the Taber municipality, I was given the job of opening a new district agricultural office in Taber in 1952 to serve that municipality.

New settlers were being located on lands in the Hays area, east of Vauxhall, as well as south of the Old Man River. These families were mainly from dryland areas and had little or no idea of how to irrigate. Irrigation schools were held on area farms to demonstrate the princi-

- (cont'd) -

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Irrigation Zone D.A. Work In The 1950's (cont'd)

ples of irrigation. New techniques were shown, but the only real piece of equipment most farmers would use for some time was the irrigation shovel.

Irrigation schools were held in co-operation with Jack Anderson, the Medicine Hat D.A., on farms at Taber, Grassy Lake, Burdett and Bow Island. Many of the crowd were reluctant to accept irrigation, and, since it rained so often on the day of these schools, we were considered good news for their dryland crops.

The new irrigation farms were established in the baldheaded prairie area where the trees were outnumbered by the fence posts. The department's tree planter was widely used, and with the co-operation of the municipality, a permanent planter was made available. Some 30 years later the many beautifully treed farmsteads in Hays, Enchant, Purple Springs, Glassy Lake and Fincastle are testimony to the success of that program.

All the settlers on the new irrigation land were screened and accepted by a committee chaired by the colonization manager. The D.A.s were members of the committee and helped to select suitable candidates for their areas. At first veterans were given preference. For them the rules were simple. Farming experience and finances were minimal. All that was really needed for them to quality was a desire to farm, $10 and a decision to live on the farm for 10 years. Of course, some who had no experience did not survive. To qualify as a non-veteran, the rules were much more rigid.

Today many of those settlers are the very successful farmers in the irrigated areas and are the community leaders. Many have retired and passed their operations on to their families. To share the hopes and successes and the sorrows of those settlers was one of the very rewarding memories of those early D.A. days.

To help the irrigation farmers to build up their cow-calf herds, the first irrigated community pasture was started at Purple Springs in the early '50s. The area developed was a pile of rough sand that produced very little pasture as dryland. Today, hundreds of cattle

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Irrigation Zone D.A. Work In The 1950's (cont'd)

can be seen grazing there every summer. It was the forerunner of other, more sophisticated irrigated pastures scattered across to Medicine Hat in the St. Mary's River Development (SMRD).

Land inspection was a responsibility of the Colonization Committee. Many of the area farmers of that day will recall the groups of cars crawling along the canal banks and through the rocks and tumbleweed on these abandoned lands. Since P.M. Sauder, the committee chairman, believed in using all the daylight hours, those tours often ended at 10 p.m. with headlights being used for last-minute inspections. The work day wasn't over at 4:30 p.m. in his era.

Vegetable crops thrived adjacent to the canning factory at Taber. However, millions of blackbirds relished the tender corn cobs and growers clamored for some type of protection. I devised a foolproof solution with some poison that really worked. Unfortunately other birds suffered as well, and I had to abandon my recommendation after receiving a letter threatening jail from one of the national bird lovers' societies.

Many other projects were undertaken with the help of irrigation district personnel, the Taber Municipal Board, the Women's Institute and numerous farm community leaders. One of the first pure seed areas for alfalfa at Hays, a municipal seed cleaning plant at Fincastle and the Canning Vegetable Marketing Board were some of the projects that contributed to irrigation farm development during the past 30 years.

About the Author

Following his experience as D.A. in Lethbridge and Taber, R.A. (Bob) Simmons was appointed colonization manager at Lethbridge in 1956. In 1959 he joined the newly formed Western Canadian Seed Processors, (now known as Canbra Foods Ltd.). Mr. Simmons is currently vice-president, Grain Division, Canbra Foods Ltd.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

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April 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAPESEED DISEASES

Good management is the basic method of controlling rapeseed diseases. It involves thoroughly incorporating stubble into the soil, the use of an adequate rotation of non-cruciferous crops, the complete control of volunteer plants and weeds during the rotation, the use of a balanced fertilizer, the use of clean seed and the use of a seed treatment.

Rapeseed stands in the Peace River region that got off to a poor start last year did not usually recover, and the main avoidable reasons for the poor stands were the crop was seeded too deeply or too early or both. All the rape fields that were devasted by above-ground diseases had been planted on rape stubble which carried the diseases.

Dr. J. G. N. Davidson, plant pathologist with Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge, reports that damping-off and associated stand establishment problems were prevalent throughout the Peace River region in 1979 owing to the cool, late spring. He says it caused a much higher plant mortality rate than flea beetles in all the fields that were examined, but that flea beetles destroyed some patches. The timing of flea beetle attack is apparently critical. If the beetles attack after the true leaves have emerged, the seedlings will usually survive. If they attack before this stage, the seedlings will usually die.

Brown girdling root rot was also severe in the Peace River region and was probably as severe as in 1977, the worst year on record. The ample supply of moisture received throughout the region in June was believed to be responsible for the high losses sustained from this disease. For the first time a high level of root rot was found in two locations where Argentine rape varieties were being grown.

As far as stem and foliage diseases were concerned, 1979 was generally a moderate year for staghead, but sclerotinia blight was prevalent throughout the Peace River region in the

- (cont'd) -

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Rapeseed Diseases (cont'd)

denser rape stands. Dr. Davidson says it was found in all the Argentine rape fields examined, and that 1979 was probably the worst year ever for this disease, even though only two fields were known to have been devastated. The virulent strain of blackleg was not seen in the 70 fields that were examined, and even the mild strain was hard to find. The incidence of grey stem and white leafspot was heavier than usual, but this disease appeared to be significant only in cases where the stand had been under strong prior stress caused by such things as a low level of nitrogen, prevalent root rot or heavy competition from wild oats. However, 1979 was probably the worst year for blackspot since 1972. Dr. Davidson says this disease was second only to root rot as a direct cause of losses from disease. The crop in one field was completely destroyed. According to Dr. Davidson, blackspot was also a key component in the pod sterility/blight syndrome.

The pod sterility/blight syndrome was apparently widespread in the Peace River region last year and caused serious yield losses. Its three major symptoms were present in varying proportions: pod sterility without discoloration; sterility and partial sterility with purplish discoloration, and blackspot, which caused further damage as a secondary problem. Dr. Davidson points out that purplish discoloration may be caused by a phosphorous, sulphur or boron deficiency, and that both phosphorous and sulphur deficiencies result in stunted plants. However, the affected plants examined last summer tended to be taller than the rest of the stand. An analysis of the soil in three affected crops ruled out a phosphorous deficiency and indicated low but not deficient levels of sulphur and boron. Furthermore, since the levels of sulphur and boron were not found to be different between severely affected patches of rape and unaffected patches within a given field, purplish discoloration is still not properly understood.

Dr. Davidson reports that pod sterility without discoloration appeared to be the major symptom. It was the only one that had not been seen in previous years, and it occurred in both wet and dry districts. Through a process of elimination, the researchers came to

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Rapeseed Diseases (cont'd)

the conclusion that it was probably caused by heat stress during an unusually hot spell in July which coincided with the flowering stage of the affected crops. It was the only symptom of the sterility syndrome not seen in late-flowering crops.

According to Dr. Davidson, pedigreed rapeseed was only inspected for blackleg in 1979, but this year it will also have to meet strict tolerance limits for sclerotes of sclerotinia. He says that available seed treatments will control some, but not all, types of damping-off and seed-borne, but not stubble-borne blackleg and grey stem. He strongly recommends treating all rapeseed obtained from outside the Peace River region with a formulation containing Benlate or Vitavax to avoid introducing the virulent strain of blackleg. This strain is continuing to spread in Saskatchewan and is now within 50 miles of Lloydminster.

- 30 -

April 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISEASE RESISTANT ALFALFA

Winter crown rot or snow mold is a serious disease of alfalfa, especially when the snow cover persists.

Dr. E.J. Hawn, plant pathologist at Agriculture Canada's research station at Lethbridge, says winter crown rot can be recognized in the spring by irregular patches of dead and damaged plants, and that all recommended varieties are susceptible to this disease. He also says that crop rotation is the best method of control at the present time, but that research into winter crown rot, now being carried out at the station, will, hopefully, lead to resistant varieties.

Another disease, verticillium wilt, is a new potential threat to alfalfa fields on the Prairies. It is caused by a fungus that can spread into new areas by diseased trash in seed lots. It has recently become firmly established in south-central British Columbia, but has not yet caused forage crop losses in Alberta.

New federal regulations require that all imported and domestic alfalfa seed be treated with the fungicide Thiram before it is planted to prevent the further spread of verticillium wilt. However, treating the seed will not prevent alfalfa plants from becoming infected from air-borne spores if the disease is in the area.

Dr. Hawn says work with plant breeders at Lethbridge has already begun on this problem. The scientists are seeking to combine the verticillium wilt resistance of some European alfalfa varieties with the bacterial wilt resistance and nematode resistance and cold hardiness of such well adapted Canadian varieties as Trek to produce a new resistant variety.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHY DO BABY LAMBS DIE?

by Dr. C. Schipper,
Animal Health Division, Alberta Agriculture

Deaths in newborn and nursing lambs continue to be a headache for many sheep producers. Although selenium deficiency and enterotoxemia are often suspected to be causative factors, they certainly are not the only killers. There are other common causes of death in lambs.

In most cases poor lamb survival is due to management shortcomings. Since infectious diseases often occur secondary to a stress situation, veterinarians in a diagnostic laboratory find it difficult, and often impossible, to come up with a clear cut diagnosis. Management factors like genetic selection, nutrition, housing, vaccination programs and experience greatly influence one's ability to raise lambs successfully.

The proper selection of a sire and dam will avoid congential problems of genetic origin. Examples are poor livability due to inbreeding and inherited conditions such as cleft palate, hydrocephalus and entropion.

Ewes in poor physical condition at lambing time are unable to raise lambs efficiently, while overfed, obese ewes are prone to vaginal prolapse, lambing difficulty and often drop lambs which are weak and poor survivors. Very thin ewes may lamb successfully but may "dry up" shortly after lambing or within a few weeks. Deaths among healthy, good looking lambs due to an insufficient milk intake are a very common though puzzling phenomena.

However, there is a rather simple explanation for this situation. A ewe nursing two fast-growing lambs and receiving, let's say, one pound of oats per day and all the average quality hay she wishes to eat is unable to maintain adequate milk production for two lambs for much

- (cont'd) -

Why Do Baby Lambs Die? (cont'd)

longer than two to three weeks. When lambs of this age run short of milk, they will begin to eat oats and hay. Since lambs do not become full fledged ruminant animals until they are between 45 and 50 days old, they start to suffer from malnutrition as soon as they run out of milk. They may either become unthrifty (humpbacked, depressed, reluctant to play) or die suddenly of bloat, a stomach ulcer or a secondary infectious disease. These problems may be eliminated by feeding ewes according to their nutritional requirements for maximum milk production. A feeding schedule of 2 - 2½ pounds of barley per day per ewe and a soybarley based creep feed for the lambs (19% soy, 80% barley, 1% limestone) fed free choice to the lambs will prevent most of these lamb losses.

Dirty, wet, cold and drafty housing facilities are another major cause of lamb deaths. A buildup of infectious disease agents in the environment and a greater susceptibility to disease in lambs occur under such conditions. Pneumonia, navel infection and scours are common in poorly managed lamb flocks.

Diseases like enterotoxemia, pulpy kidney, tetanus, etc. are more likely to kill lambs which have not received immunity through their mother's milk. Similarly, lambs nursing ewes which were deficient in selenium, calcium, phosphorus or Vitamin A have a much lower resistance to disease, rickets, poor bone structure and night blindness.

Hence, proper nutrition, good general management and appropriate health care are all important in avoiding high death losses among young lambs.

- 30 -

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April 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE ALBERTA GREEN CERTIFICATE FARM TRAINING PROGRAM

by Andy Birch
Alberta Agriculture's District Agriculturist at Stettler

The Alberta Green Certificate Farm Training Program can best be described as an on-the-job training for employees keenly interested in farming as a career. It is an apprenticeship program which emphasizes the practical aspects of farming as well as the management skills required for planning, operating, financing, and marketing a farm enterprise.

Flexibility

One thing that is nice about the program is that it can be tailored to meet the interests of the employee. If he wants to work only on a dryland farm, a suitable farm trainer will be found that will enable him to acquire the necessary skills associated with dryland farming. On the other hand, if he is primarily interested in dairying, he will be placed where employment opportunities permit him to acquire and develop the skills related to dairying.

Along with the on-the-job training experience, employees can supplement their education through courses from agricultural colleges, home study programs, farm tours, workshops and extension courses.

Program Objectives

The Alberta Green Certificate Farm Training Program says in effect to an individual, "O.K., you wanna farm; then get off the fence and get your feet wet!" Although practical experience is emphasized, farm management training is important if the person is to make good decisions in financing and marketing.

The program is designed to provide three levels of training. Depending on the attitude and ambition of the trainee, he may work to obtain a Level I Certificate in which case his capabilities will be those of a general farm worker. If he wants to go further, he can obtain a Level II Certificate which will qualify him to be a foreman or herdsmen. If he aspires to operate or own a farm, a Level III Certificate will provide him with the necessary knowledge and management skills to do this.

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The Alberta Green Certificate Farm Training Program (cont'd)

At the present time, the program enables trainees to acquire competency in six different skills --- beef production, swine production, dairy production, dryland crop production, farm machinery and farm management. Certificates of proficiency are awarded in beef, swine, dairy and dryland crop production. The specific skills a trainee must learn will depend upon the area he chooses to train in and the level of training he aspires to.

Why The Program Can Fail

What better way to learn farming than by doing it. The trainee is learning the skills he wants, while the farmer is getting his work done and everybody should be happy. Not so! There are several reasons why things go sour. One may be that the trainee suddenly loses interest in his work or completely changes his mind about farming. Perhaps the "fun in farming" is not all that it was cracked up to be. Maybe the training opportunities are not what was anticipated. Or there may be a personality conflict between the trainer and the trainee. Maybe the farmer is not providing enough interest, instruction and guidance for the trainee to learn and develop the necessary training skills. It should be emphasized that the role of the trainer-farmer is unique in that in addition to being an employer, he is also an educator. This means that he must be willing to spend the time required to teach the trainee how and why he does the things he does.

Eligibility

Trainees must be at least 18 years old and they must have been a resident of Alberta for at least a year. They must also be legally entitled to work in Canada. Farmers who feel they can provide a learning atmosphere and who are willing to act as both employer and educator are encouraged to participate in the program. It should be noted, however, that farm trainers are not permitted to train immediate members of their family or anyone who has been in their employment for more than one year.

Further information on the Alberta Green Certificate Farm Training Program and application forms can be obtained from district agriculturist offices.

- 30 -

Alberta
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April 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW ZEALAND APICULTURIST VISITS ALBERTA

Trevor Bryant, apiculture advisory officer with the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, is visiting Alberta for 12 months on an exchange basis. His counterpart, Harvey Yoder, district agriculturist at Lac La Biche, will be leaving for New Zealand in May.

While in Alberta, Mr. Bryant will study our apiculture practices in the hope of learning some new methods and techniques that will be useful to New Zealand beekeepers. He is also interested in our agricultural extension service and apiculture research. While here, he hopes to pass on information from New Zealand that could be useful to Alberta beekeepers.

Mr. Bryant already has trips planned to Beaverlodge, Brooks and the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He also intends to visit beekeeping operations in British Columbia. In the meantime, he will be accompanying an Alberta beekeeper to California to pick up a load of package bees. He will visit some queen bee breeding facilities while there.

Mr. Bryant says during the next 12 months he hopes to gain a better understanding of Canadian beekeeping, management techniques and production methods and to broaden his knowledge of Alberta and Canada as a whole.

New Zealand's honey crop comes mainly from white clover. The average yield per hive is about 37 kilograms and there are more than 4,000 beekeepers who between them operate about 220,000 hives. The average commercial operation has about 850 hives, but the largest operator in that country has 14,000 hives.

New Zealand's annual honey crop averages about 6,500 tonnes a year of which 1,500 tonnes are exported to Japan, the European Economic Community and the Middle East.

- 30 -

Alberta
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April 14, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AGRICULTURAL HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS OPEN

Alberta Agriculture Minister, Dallas Schmidt, has announced nominations are again welcomed for the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame.

Albertans who have made important contributions to the development of agriculture in Alberta, Canada or internationally, and who hold Canadian citizenship, are eligible for nomination.

"Recognition in the Agricultural Hall of Fame is the highest honor Alberta Agriculture can bestow on an individual," says Mr. Schmidt.

Nominations will be accepted until June 15. Nomination forms are available from district extension offices throughout the province and from the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame, Extension Division, Alberta Agriculture, 9718-107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2C8.

Those making nominations are asked to include a history of the nominee's life in Alberta. The forms will assist nominators in outlining supporting evidence of an individual's contributions to agriculture.

Service is the basic qualification for inclusion in the Hall of Fame. A life of dedication to the betterment of agriculture has distinguished each person chosen in past years. Professional or voluntary involvement in farming or rural life will be considered by the selection committee if the nominee has made an outstanding contribution in his or her specialty.

The committee will give preference to people associated with the practical aspects of agriculture, including farmers and ranchers. Agricultural business people, professional agrologists and rural community workers will also be considered.

Selection of men and women to be named to the Hall of Fame is made by a commit-

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Agricultural Hall of Fame Nominations Open (cont'd)

tee representing farmers and farm wives.

Since its foundation in 1951, the Hall of Fame has honored 45 men and women for their notable contributions to farming, ranching and the quality of rural life. Portraits and a description of their accomplishments are located at the permanent Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame display on the main floor of the provincial museum in Edmonton.

Men and women selected in 1980 to the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame will be honored at a banquet and ceremony during Agriculture Week in the latter part of October.

- 30 -

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April 21, 1980

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THIS WEEK

Pig Clubs Of Yester-Year (Jubilee Series) 1
High Nitrogen Level In Alberta Soils. 4
Controlling Sclerotinia In Rapeseed 7
Inoculation And Treatment Of Legume Seed 9
1980 Forest Tent Caterpillar Defoliation Forecast 12
Purchasing Forage Seed. 14
Spring Pasture Management. 17
Deadline For Alberta Summer Employment Applications. 19
Market Garden Grants Continued 20
Crop Varietal Publications Available 21

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

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April 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIG CLUBS OF YESTER-YEAR

by Fred Bell

The first "Boys' and Girls' Clubs" in Alberta was organized in 1917 by W.J. Elliott, principal of the Olds School of Agriculture to promote the raising of more pigs to provide bacon for the troops. Pig clubs became popular and with war time prices there was profit in them too. They were organized in 1917, 1918 and 1919. Then the bottom fell out of the prices, clubs folded and farmers sold their brood sows.

In 1920 H.W. Scott was appointed D.A. at Sedgewick. In 1924 F.H. Newcombe became D.A. at Vegreville. Both these men did excellent work as D.A.'s in general and with pigs in particular. They were successful in coaching judging teams that did well at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. Their achievements have been permanently recorded in print.

One other D.A. whose work was also outstanding, but so far as I know received no permanent recognition was W.D. Gentleman, generally known as Bill. In March 1929, I took over the supervision of the illustration station at St. Paul of which Hector Therrien was the operator. Mr. Therrien raised and marketed just over 100 pigs a year. They were of mixed breeding and not of the best quality. The experimental farm at Scott, Saskatchewan, provided Mr. Therrien with an unrelated pair of pure bred Yorkshires of weaning age which I delivered in a crate in the back seat of our Ford. When Mr. Therrien compared his own pigs with these, he became dissatisfied with his breeding stock. He asked me to purchase on his behalf a dozen really good Yorkshire gilts. This was, of course, outside of my field. I would have purchased them if necessary, but Bill Gentleman was willing and able to do so. He purchased 12 really choice animals.

During the years that followed Mr. Gentleman placed almost all the progeny of Mr. Therrien's swine herd in school fairs and in pig clubs. He encouraged farmers to raise better

- (cont'd) -

Pig Clubs Of Yester Year (cont'd)

past. He helped Mr. Therrien select his replacement stock and assisted him in improving his methods.

After the weanling pigs had been placed at the illustration station, and at Mr. Gentleman's request, I visited the office of the Dominion Livestock Branch in Edmonton where I obtained a copy of the hog grading "bylines" north of Red Deer. I learned that the pigs from the St. Paul railway line graded only a fraction above the Rocky Mountain House line which was at the bottom of the list. Some years later when Mr. Gentleman was being transferred from St. Paul I again visited the Dominion Livestock Branch and obtained the grading sheets. I learned that St. Paul was just a shade below the top in grade. There were hundreds of farms on which the breeding stock was pure Yorkshire but without pedigrees. The whole area was raising better pigs.

I used their figures in my report claiming part of the credit for illustration stations because they were the source of supply for foundation stock, but the fact remains that it was Bill Gentleman who made the most of the opportunity and certainly improved the quality of hogs shipped out of stations along the St. Paul line.

Subsequently a supervisor of illustration stations was appointed at Lacombe and all stations west of the 4th Meridian came within his territory, including the St. Paul station, situated on 36-59-7W4.

Bill was transferred out of the district. He passed away many years ago, partially because of a car accident from which he never fully recovered. His widow, Dorothy, a sister of the late Peter Jamieson, lives in Lethbridge where she was recognized as the woman of the year some time ago.

About the Author

From 1928 to 1944 Fred Bell was supervisor of illustration stations for the Dominion Experimental Farm Service at Scott, Saskatchewan.

Pig Clubs Of Yester Year (cont'd)

In 1944 he joined the Alberta Department of Agriculture as district agriculturist at Drumheller. He was transferred to the Calgary district office in 1952 where he remained until he retired in 1959.

Author of the book "My 15 Years with 4-H Clubs", Fred Bell was inducted in the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame in 1979.

Editors Note:

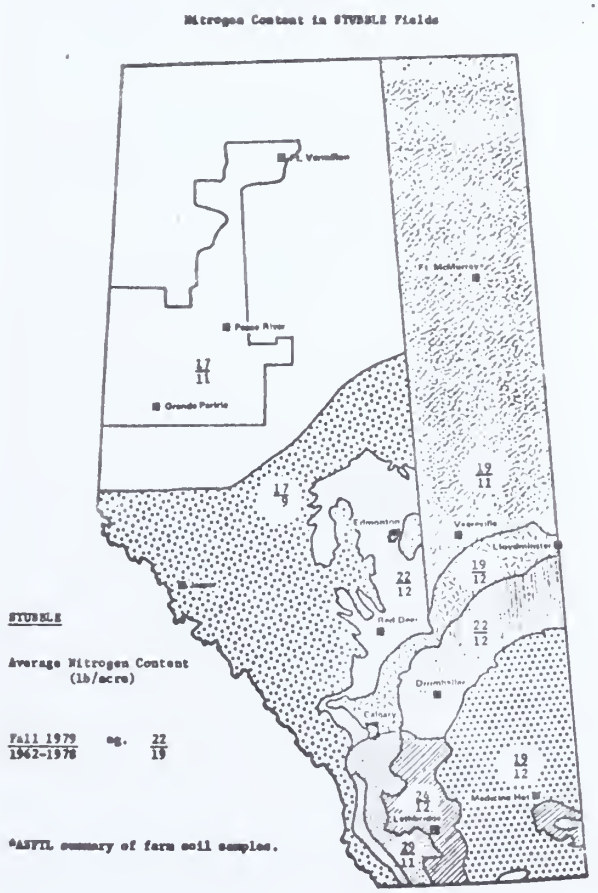
1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri- News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

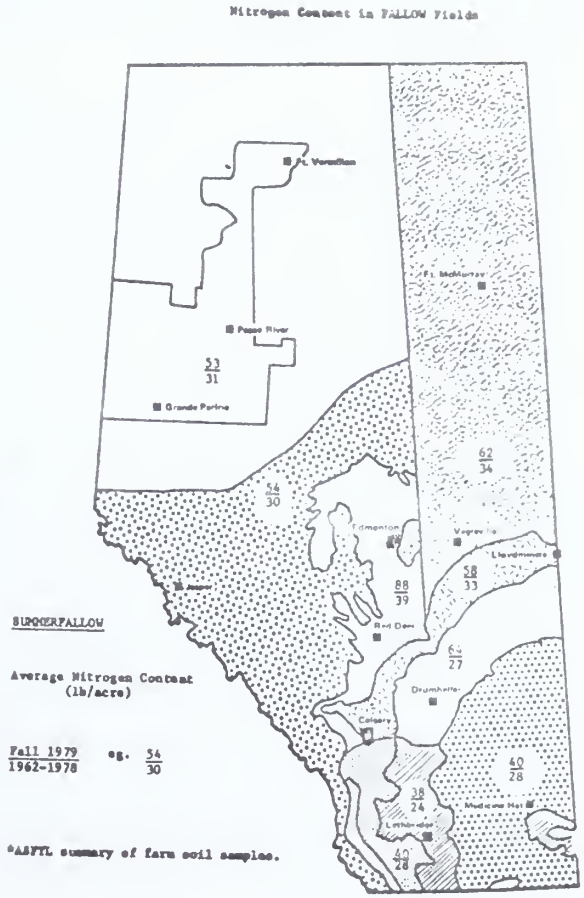
- 30 -

April 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIGH NITROGEN LEVEL IN ALBERTA SOILS





The above maps show how the present nitrogen levels in stubble and fallow fields in Alberta compare with the average for past years. The data were compiled from several thousand soil samples submitted to the Agricultural Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory in Edmonton from each of the different areas of the province. A ratio of 22/19, for example, indicates a nitrogen content of 22 lb/ac for soil samples submitted last fall compared with an average level of 19 lb/ac for the last 17 years.

A summary of results obtained from samples submitted to the Agricultural Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory last fall shows that the nitrogen level in both stubble and fallow soils in Alberta is considerably higher than normal.

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High Nitrogen Level In Alberta Soils (cont'd)

Richard Leitch, soils specialist at the laboratory, reports that the nitrogen level in the soil in many parts of the province is twice as high as normal, and that, in some cases, it is the highest it has been since summaries of test results were first recorded at the laboratory 17 years ago.

Mr. Leitch says the summary information obtained from the 16,000 or so farm soil samples submitted for testing last fall provides an excellent basis for monitoring annual changes in the nitrogen content of soils in different regions of the province, but that it is important to remember that such summary data are only a guide. They are not a substitute for soil test results obtained from individual fields.

He points out that the amount of plant available nitrogen mineralized in the soil, which is measured in soil tests, is influenced by such environmental factors as soil moisture and temperature during the growing season as well as by the time that elapses between the spring thaw and freeze-up. He believes the higher than normal nitrogen content in stubble fields this year is probably partly due to a nitrogen carryover in the soil from the 1979 growing season. Undoubtedly, the long, mild fall, which allowed plenty of time for a nitrogen build-up in the soil from decaying crop residues, and soil organic matter reserves are also important. Last year's mild fall also contributed to an accumulation of nitrogen in summerfallow fields which had many more months of favourable weather to mineralize the nitrogen than was the case with stubble fields.

"The higher than normal nitrogen level in stubble and summerfallow fields" says Mr. Leitch, "is a bonus for farmers because it will lower the nitrogen fertilizer requirement for this year's crops. Since the nitrogen level in stubble fields in most areas is approximately 10 pounds per acre higher than normal, the laboratory has been recommending nitrogen fertilizer application rates that are about 10 pounds lower than usual. Summerfallow fields in many areas

High Nitrogen Level In Alberta Soils (cont'd)

have such a good supply of nitrogen that they will require little or no additional nitrogen fertilizer for most crops this year. Low subsoil moisture reserves in many parts of the province are another reason for considering lower than usual nitrogen fertilizer application rates."

- 30 -

April 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTROLLING SCLEROTINIA IN RAPESEED

At the present time there is no way of eliminating the fungus disease, sclerotinia, from rapeseed, but it can be controlled to a considerable extent by planting seed that is as free as possible of the fungi.

Phil Thomas, Alberta Agriculture's supervisor of oilseed crops, says the spiral cleaner does a good job of removing the sclerotia fungi from rapeseed, and that gravity equipment has also been used successfully. He says that anybody who would like to have his seed tested for its sclerotia content should send a 100-gram sample to the federal Plant Products Laboratory in Edmonton. The analysis will also give the weed content.

Rapeseed growers who are planning to buy seed this year may be interested in the following sclerotia standards:

Canada Foundation No.1	-	2 sclerotia per 50 g.
Canada Certified No.1	-	1 sclerotia per 50 g.
Canada No.1 seed	-	1 sclerotia per 50 g.
Canada Foundation No.2	-	2 sclerotia per 50 g.
Canada Certified No.2	-	2 sclerotia per 50 g.
Canada No.2 seed	-	2 sclerotia per 50 g.

Mr. Thomas reminds growers that the Canada Seeds Act states that a seed purchaser has the legal right to ask for an official purity and germination certificate when he buys a tagged and sealed seedlot that has been graded.

He reports that sclerotinia occurred throughout central and northern Alberta last year, and that it was most prevalent in the denser stands of rapeseed, particularly in crops that were badly lodged.

Sclerotia, which are hard, black and about the size of a kernel of grain, form inside the stems of infected plants. These stems then turn white, become brittle and tend to shred as they dry up, and the seed ripens prematurely.

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Controlling Sclerotinia in Rapeseed (cont'd)

Sclerotia can survive in a dormant stage in the soil for several years. When they become active they can either grow along the ground and infect the rapeseed plants or they can shoot spores into the air which infect the flowers, leaves and branch axils that they land on.

Mr. Thomas says a four-year rotation of rape with cereal and grass crops is thought to help to control sclerotinia. Sunflower, mustard, field beans and lentil crops should not be included in the rotation because they are susceptible to the disease. Volunteer rapeseed plants and susceptible weeds like stinkweed, hemp nettle, thistles and biennial wormwood should be rigidly controlled between rapeseed crops, and all contaminated rapeseed debris should be buried to a depth of at least two inches in the soil. This will prevent the spore-bearing structure of the fungus from developing.

- 30 -

April 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INOCULATION AND TREATMENT OF LEGUME SEED

by W.A. Rice and J.G.N. Davidson
Agriculture Canada's Research Station at Beaverlodge

Studies at the Beaverlodge Research Station have shown that properly applied, high quality legume inoculants are required for most soils in Alberta. Legume inoculants contain a unique kind of microorganism called Rhizobium which forms nodules on legume roots. This symbiotic relationship between a plant and a bacterium provides the legume with the ability to use or fix atmospheric nitrogen. Some soils many contain sufficient Rhizobium to produce reasonable nodulation, but inoculation introduces strains of Rhizobium that are much better nitrogen fixers than those already present in the soil.

Inoculation is very inexpensive relative to the equivalent cost of the fertilizer nitrogen that would be required to replace the nitrogen gained by fixation. Alfalfa and clovers can fix 150 to 440 kg of nitrogen per hectare in the first two years after establishment. When the foliage is removed for hay, approximately 25 per cent of this fixed nitrogen is left in the soil where it contributes to the nitrogen requirements of subsequent crops.

To ensure that high quality products are available to Canadian farmers, legume inoculants and pre-inoculated seed are tested by the plant products division of Agriculture Canada, and proper handling is important to maintain this high quality. The following points are important for on-the-farm application of inoculants.

. Make sure the inoculant package states that the Rhizobium culture is compatible with the species of legume seed to be inoculated.

. Store inoculants under refrigeration (4 ° C) and keep them out of direct sunlight. Even a few hours of high temperature, sunlight or severe drying will seriously decrease the viability of the Rhizobium.

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Inoculation And Treatment of Legume Seed (cont'd)

. Apply peat-based inoculants with a sticking agent to bind them to the seed. A commercial sticking agent, a 5 per cent corn syrup solution or skim milk can be used. It is advisable to increase the inoculant rate by up to 10 times the normally recommended rate for such adverse conditions as a moderately acid soil or a low soil moisture content.

. Plant as soon as possible after the seed has been inoculated.

Pre-inoculated seed can save time and effort during planting, but is susceptible to loss of Rhizobium viability. Pelleted or coated seed provides extra protection for the Rhizobium with the added benefit of a small amount of lime to neutralize soil acidity immediately around the seedling root. Pre-inoculated seed should be stored in a cool dark place.

Seed Treatment

Federal regulations now require that all alfalfa seed sold in Canada be treated with Thiram. This regulation was introduced to control the spread of Verticillium wilt, a new alfalfa disease which has been introduced into British Columbia through imported seed. There has been some concern about the effect of Thiram on Rhizobium. However, tests carried out by the research branch of Agriculture Canada and inoculant manufacturers have shown that Thiram does not affect nodulation if the seed is properly inoculated with a high quality inoculant. In fact, some cases, there may be an improvement in nodulation from the Thiram treatment.

Although the manufacture of Thiram 75 WP (wettable powder) for alfalfa has ceased, there are still stocks on the shelves and on the farm. Trade names include Arasan, Thiram and Thylate. Thiram 320 FW (flowable) is the new formulation registered for treating alfalfa seed. It is designed to get around health hazards caused by inhalation of dust from the WP formulation, but vapours should not be inhaled. Read the label before using Thiram, and follow all precautions.

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Inoculation And Treatment Of Legume Seed (cont'd)

If you have:

a) Pre-treated, pre-inoculated seed, do not treat it with anything else.

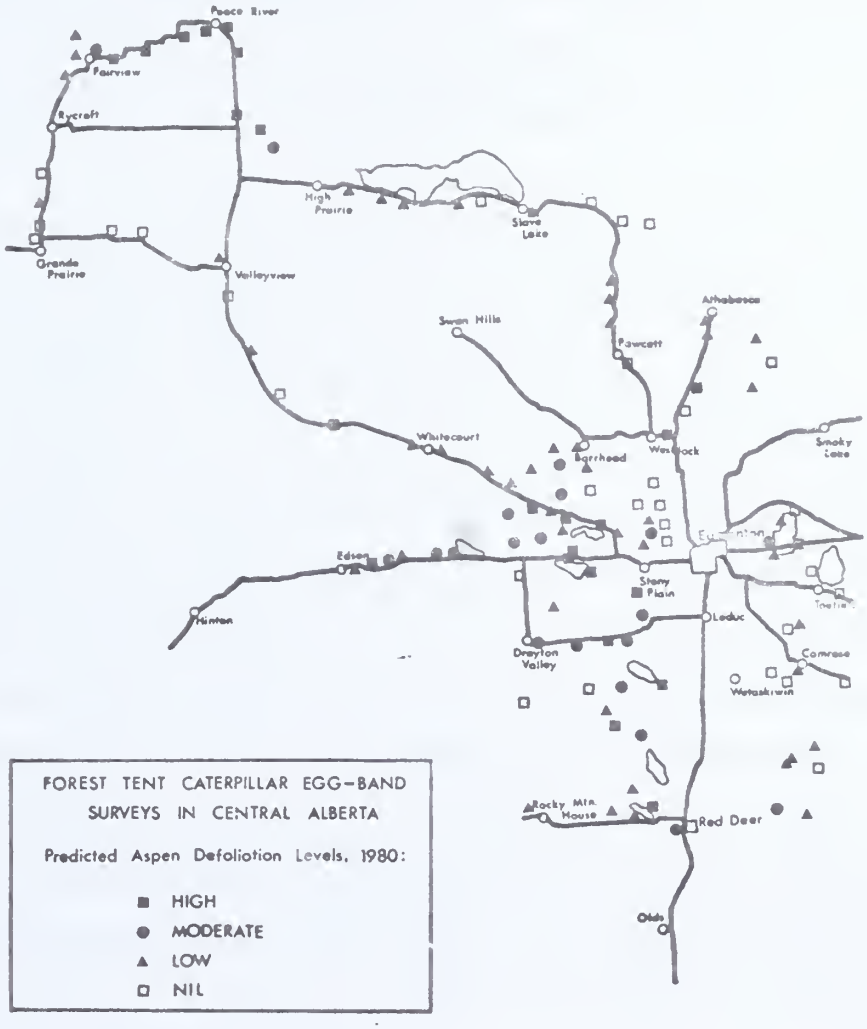
b) Pre-treated, uninoculated seed, add Rhizobium inoculant with a recommended sticker, regardless of whether it was treated with the wettable powder or with the flowable formulation.

c) Untreated, uninoculated seed, and you have:

1. Thiram 320 Flowable, treat the seed with Thiram and allow it to dry. The manufacturer has indicated that Thiram 320 is a precisely prepared formulation and that any dilution may adversely affect its efficacy and adherence. It already contains a sticker, so do not add a sticker and do not dilute. Just before seeding, add Rhizobium inoculant with a recommended sticker.
2. Thiram 75 WP, either apply the wettable powder with a little mineral oil at your convenience and then add a Rhizobium inoculant with recommended sticker just before seeding or apply powder and a Rhizobium inoculant with a sticker just before seeding.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1980 FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR DEFOLIATION FORECAST



Results of a recent survey carried out by the forest insect and disease staff of the Canadian Forestry Service in Edmonton indicate there will be areas of aspen forest defoliated by the forest tent caterpillar *(Malacosoma disstria)* this year. Although locations will be similar to those of 1979, the severity of defoliation is expected to be less, and generally more spotty than last year.

The general area of the province surveyed extends from Rocky Mountain House to Stettler, north and west to Athabasca, Lesser Slave Lake, Peace River, Fairview and Grande Prairie, and west of Edmonton to Edson. The survey method involved selecting numerous

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1980 Forest Tent Caterpillar Defoliation Forecast (cont'd)

aspen stands throughout the area and making counts of the overwintering egg-band stage deposited on the upper twigs of the trees. The density of these egg-bands at each location was then translated into one of three levels of defoliation expected to occur when the caterpillars start feeding on the new leaves. Since each egg-band may contain 100-250 eggs, six to eight such bands on one tree four to five metres tall can produce enough caterpillars to completely defoliate the tree. The three defoliation categories are: low -- up to 30 per cent of the leaves may be eaten; moderate -- 30-50 per cent of the leaves may be eaten; and high -- the trees may be nearly or completely defoliated.

The areas predicted to have a high level of defoliation this year will be spotty and lie mostly to the west and southwest of Edmonton and between Peace River and Fairview. High populations of caterpillars are expected to appear around several lake resort areas, including Sylvan, Pigeon, Wabamun and Lac Ste. Anne. Within the remainder of the area sampled, defoliation will range from nil to moderate. Of the 122 locations sampled only 18 per cent were classified as having high numbers of egg-bands, while over 60 per cent of the locations had either no egg bands or their numbers were sufficiently low to cause only light defoliation. These data are interpreted to mean that the tent caterpillar populations are now starting to collapse throughout most of the outbreak area.

The first appearance of the new hatch of caterpillars will occur about mid-May or about the time aspen leaves begin to open. Home owners and cottage owners may spot the first signs of caterpillars as they congregate into small black clusters on tree stems, often at the junction of a main branch. Both the egg-bands and young caterpillars are easily removed by hand when they appear only on a few small trees or shrubs. However, high populations on large trees are more difficult to deal with.

April 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PURCHASING FORAGE SEED

by Myron Bjorge
Supervisor, Forage Crops, Alberta Agriculture
Marcel Maisonneuve
Chairman, Forage Seed Council

Seed supplies for most forage species have generally improved this spring compared with last year. The popular varieties of alsike clover, red clover, sweet clover, timothy, crested wheatgrass, creeping red fescue, and slender wheatgrass are readily available.

Alfalfa, while more readily available than a year ago, is still generally in short supply. Varieties in fair supply include Beaver, Trek, Algonquin, Chimo, Rambler, Vernal and Thor. Some Anchor, Drylander, Valor, Pacer, Ceres, Titan and Apollo are in good supply.

Birdsfoot trefoil and cicer milkvetch, two bloatfree legumes, are in short supply, but sainfoin is fairly readily available.

Most varieties of bromegrass are in short supply. The supply of pubescent wheatgrass is somewhat low. Orchardgrass, reed canarygrass and meadow foxtail are available in very limited quantities.

When purchasing seed it is important to understand what is meant by the grade on the attached seed tag. For both pedigreed and commercial seed there are restrictions on the type and amount of weed seeds they may contain as well as a minimum germination level which is expressed as a percentage of pure seed.

Table 7 of the Canada Seeds Act, presented below, is only one of 17 tables which apply to seed sold in Canada. It applies to alfalfa, red clover, sweet clover and timothy and the maximum number of weed seeds permitted per 25 grams (i.e. .05 lb.). Most seed lots actually contain much lower amounts of weed seeds. The weed seed classes of the Canada Seeds Act are also shown below to indicate prohibited, primary noxious and secondary noxious weeds.

- (cont'd) -

Purchasing Forage Seed (cont'd)

A purchaser of any seed has the right to request and receive from the seller a copy of its purity and germination analysis. To avoid buying seed that contains unwanted or new weed seeds, it is advisable to order early, discuss requirements with a seed dealer and obtain the purity analysis for the seed lot being purchased.

TABLE 7

1	2	3	4	5*	6	7	8	9
	Maximum number of seeds per 25 grams except where otherwise stated							
	Noxious weed seeds				Seeds of other crops		Minimum percent germination	Maximum percent hulled seed in timothy by count
	Primary	Primary plus secondary	Total weed seeds	Sweet clover	In timothy	In other kinds		
1. Canada Foundation No.1	0	1	10	1	20	10	85	50
2. Canada Foundation No. 2	0	2	75	1	100	50	70	100
3. Canada Registered No. 1	0	1	10	1	20	10	85	50
4. Canada Registered No. 2	0	2	75	1	100	50	70	100
5. Canada Certified No. 1	0	5	75	25	2% by mass	2% by mass	80	50
6. Canada Certified No. 2	0	10	100	50	3% by mass	3% by mass	70	75
7. Canada No. 1 Seed	0	5	75	25	2% by mass	2% by mass	80	50
8. Canada No. 2 Seed	5	15	150	100	3% by mass	3% by mass	70	75
9. Canada No. 3 Seed	10	50	300	less than 1% by mass	less than 5% by mass	less than 5% by mass	60	100

* Column 5 does not apply to Sweet clover

SOURCE: Canada Seeds Act

Weed Seed Order

Class 1. Prohibited Noxious Weed Seeds

(1) Dodder
(2) Field bindweed
(3) Hologeton
(4) Hoary Cress
(5) Horse nettle
(6) Leafy spurge
(7) Russian Knapweed
(8) Tansy ragwort

Class 2. Primary Noxious Weed Seeds

(1) Bladder campion
(2) Couch grass
(3) Great ragweed
(4) Ox-eye daisy
(5) Perennial sow thistle
(6) Toad flax
(7) White cockle
(8) Wild mustard
(9) Wild radish
(10) Yellow rocket or winter cress

- (cont'd) -

Purchasing Forage Seed (cont'd)

Class 3. Secondary Noxious Weed Seeds

(1) Cleavers
(2) Canada thistle
(3) Chicory
(4) Common ragweed
(5) Dock
(6) Dogmustard
(7) False flax
(8) Field peppergrass
(9) Night-flowering catchfly
(10) Ribgrass
(11) Stickseed
(12) Stinkweed
(13) Tall hedge mustard
(14) Wild carrot
(15) Wild oats

April 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING PASTURE MANAGEMENT

by Myron Bjorge, Supervisor, Forage Crops, Alberta Agriculture

Early spring pasture management is very important in determining total pasture yield and animal growth. In fact, the key decisions affecting both plant and animal performance are made before cattle are turned out to pasture for the season.

Early pasture growth is desirable so that "winter" feeding of livestock can be discontinued sooner. Grasses such as crested wheatgrass, bromegrass and meadow foxtail grow rapidly in early spring in areas where they are adapted, and high levels of fertility, especially nitrogen, stimulate more rapid spring growth.

Livestock should not be turned on to a pasture until the forage is 6 – 8 inches (15 – 20 cm) high. Where the pasture growth is dense, the yield should be about 1000 lb/ac (1100 kg/ha) at this stage of development. Earlier grazing results in plant leaves being removed before root food reserves are restored, with the result that regrowth is slower.

The following table gives the approximate relationship between yield of a dense pasture stand and daily consumption by mature beef cattle.

Yield		Approximate Daily Intake		Monthly Intake	
lb/ac	(kg/ha)	lb	(kg)	lb	(kg)
1000	(1100)	32	(15)	1000	(455)
500	(550)	20	(10)	600	(275)
250	(225)	10	(5)	300	(135)

Everyone is always anxious to remove beef cattle and calves from wet winter quarters in the spring, but to give them free access to the summer pasture is not a good idea. It is much better to provide them with a small pasture – just enough to enable them to remain dry and to have shelter – and to continue feeding them a normal ration until other pastures are ready for grazing.

- (cont'd) -

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Spring Pasture Management (cont'd)

Beginning the grazing season correctly will facilitate higher stocking rates later on and better plant and animal performance. Since pasture regrowth is improved, it makes possible a longer grazing season.

- 30 -

April 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEADLINE FOR ALBERTA SUMMER FARM EMPLOYMENT APPLICATIONS

Potential employers and potential employees under the Alberta Summer Farm Employment Program must submit their application forms to their nearest Canada farm labour pool office before May 23.

Designed to provide farm work experience for students during their summer vacation, the program has attracted more than 25,000 young people since it was initiated in 1972.

Any Alberta farmer is eligible to employ a student under the program, providing he or she is not a member of the employer's immediate family. The government will pay half the student's monthly salary up to a maximum of $250.

Applicants for employment must be at least 15 years old and have the written consent of their parents if they are under 18. Applicants must also have resided in Alberta for the past six months and must be legally entitled to work in Canada. They must be prepared to work for at least two consecutive weeks and to attend one of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety seminars.

Applications from potential employers under the program will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis, with priority being given to those who did not participate in last year's program.

Employer and employee application forms can be obtained from any district agriculturist or Canadian farm labour pool office.

Further details on the Alberta Summer Employment Program can be obtained Bernie Yakimyshyn, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8 (Telephone: 427 - 2172).

- 30 -

April 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARKET GARDEN GRANTS CONTINUED

Alberta's Market Garden Development Grant Program is to be continued again this year.

Initiated in 1976, it is intended to increase market gardening in the province by providing assistance to growers in the form of development grants, which are to be used to buy seed, fertilizer, garden equipment, etc. The grant is $500 for two or more acres (87,120 square feet) of vegetables and/or fruit.

To be eligible for a grant, a market gardener must produce and market all his produce from a minimum of two acres. The grant covers all vegetable crops, except potatoes, that are commonly grown in Alberta and raspberry and strawberry plants that are bearing fruit. The vegetables and fruits must be grown under normally acceptable cultural practices and must be sold through a recognized marketing channel.

Since a market gardener is entitled to a grant for a maximum of only two years, anybody who has already received a grant for two years under the Market Garden Development Grant Program or the former Fresh Vegetable Incentive Program is not eligible for a grant this year.

Vegetable growers who are eligible for grants under the Market Garden Development Grant Program must file an application by July 1 with the Horticulture Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2C8.

Additional information on the Market Garden Development Grant Program and application forms for the grants can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's horticultural branch and from district agriculturists.

- 30 -

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April 21, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CROP VARIETAL PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

A series of publications on new crop varieties are now available from Alberta Agriculture.

. "Varietal Description of Cascade Oats" (FS 113/33-7) outlines the origin, characteristics, performance and adaptation of this variety.

. "Varietal Description of Elrose Spring Barley" (FS 114/33-8) outlines the origin, characteristics, performance and disease resistance of this variety.

. "Varietal Description of Bedford Spring Barley" (FS 114/33-9) outlines the origin, characteristics, performance, adaptation and disease resistance of this variety.

. "Varietal Description of Cree Bird's-foot Trefoil" (FS 125/33-7) outlines the origin, breeding, characteristics, performance and adaptation of this variety.

. "Varietal Description of Maple Presto Soybean" (FS 141/33-1) outlines the origin, characteristics and oil and protein content of this variety.

. "Varietal Description of Lenca Field Pea" (FS 142/33-5) outlines the origin, characteristics, performance and disease resistance of this variety.

. "Varietal Description of Laird Lentil" (FS 142/33-6) outlines the origin, characteristics and performance of this variety.

Copies of any of the above publications can be obtained from district agriculturists or the Publications Office, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8.

- 30 -

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AGRI-NEWS

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MAY

April 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THIS WEEK

Greenhouse Energy Use And Conservation 1

Annual Compensation For Oil And Gas Well Sites 2

Forage Seed Distribution (Jubilee Series) 3

Producing High Quality Triticale 6

Fertilizing Grasses For Forage Production 8

Fertilizing of Legume Crops In Alberta 10

Controlling Rape Diseases 12

Pasture Rental Rates 14

Alberta Nursery Trades Association Selects Anniversary Trees 16

Spring Evaluation Of The Herd Sire 17

Head Of Field Crop Research Appointed 19

Marketing Economist For Grains And Oilseeds Appointed 20

District Home Economist Appointed For Falher 21

District Home Economist Appointed 22

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Communications Division

Phone (403) 427-2127

April 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENHOUSE ENERGY USE AND CONSERVATION

Dallas Schmidt, minister of Alberta Agriculture,has announced that the department will place greater emphasis on the use of reject heat from various sources for the production of food.

Clive Schaupmeyer, a staff member at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Brooks, has been appointed project leader of Greenhouse Energy Use and Conservation. In this role he will act as the co-ordinator of the departmental effort and will be the chief contact person with other government departments, public agencies and private industry.

With the inevitable rise in fuel prices, even in Alberta, there is an increasing interest in the use of heat energy which is normally discarded at gas compressor stations, gas processing plants, refineries, fertilizer plants, thermal generating plants and other industrial sites. It is somewhat ironical that Alberta with its large fossil fuel supplies also has large sources of reject heat.

Several projects designed to use reject heat for greenhouse crop production have already been started, and many more have been proposed. The need to assemble good information on the greenhouse use of energy has become urgent. It is as important to help new greenhouse operators to get started as it is to help the existing industry to adopt new conservation techniques to remain competitive.

In announcing the appointment of Mr. Schaupmeyer, the minister noted that the department has reallocated research and extension resources and that other staff have assumed responsibility for the vegetable research conducted by Mr. Schaupmeyer in the past.

- 30 -

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April 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANNUAL COMPENSATION FOR OIL AND GAS WELL SITES

The Farmers' Advocate of Alberta requests farmers who had oil and/or gas well sites placed on their land before January 1, 1972, and who have not had their annual compensation upgraded each year, to write to their respective company immediately and request such an upgrading on the basis of loss of gross production and field severance as well as the inconvenience of having to farm around the roadway and well sites.

The Farmers' Advocate advises farmers who have been refused an upgrading of their annual compensation on well sites that were placed on their land before January 1, 1972 to report the fact to his office (12th Floor, Agriculture Building, 9718 - 107 Street, Edmonton, T5K 2C8). He will then try to help them to obtain an upgrading of this compensation from the company concerned, and he will bring the situation to the attention of oil industry associations and the government.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORAGE SEED DISTRIBUTION

by Everett Birdsall

I went to Thorsby as district agriculturist in January, 1941 to replace Peter Wyllie who had become sheep and swine promoter in the Livestock Branch of the Department of Agriculture. Being very energetic, he had left behind a collection of good projects that kept me busy.

As an undergraduate and graduate student, I had majored in cereals and cereal breeding, but I quickly came face-to-face with the vital need for grasses and legumes on grey wooded soils. Mr. Wyllie had test plots scattered throughout the district, and there were forage seed distribution days in the early spring. Farmers had to attend them to qualify for government subsidized seed. They listened to lectures on seeding and management while they were there. I continued all this and added a column in the four weekly newspapers serving the district, all of which were put out by one publisher in Leduc. Since a high percentage of the columns dealt with aspects of farming the grey wooded soil, grasses, legumes and fertilizers were emphasized.

I left Thorsby at the end of December to become assistant superintendent at the dominion experimental farm at Prince George, British Columbia, but came back to Alberta and rejoined the district agriculturist service at Red Deer in October.

I found the government assistance policy for forage seed distribution had been discontinued. Federal, provincial and municipal governments had shared this assistance and farmers received seed at a fraction of its cost. This presented a problem. Much of the Red Deer area was well out of the pioneering stage, but forage production was still not at the level it should have been in a livestock producing area. Furthermore, the seed trade had not developed retail outlets to make seed readily available to farmers. The Department of Agriculture was

- (cont'd) -

Forage Seed Production (cont'd)

prepared to stock seed supplies and ship them out if outlets could be arranged. After mulling the problem over for sometime, a brain wave struck!

I was travelling with some creamery men to a meeting in the Rocky Mountain House area when I suddenly burst out with a proposal that the creameries undertake the task. Bert Lundberg, creamery operator at the Red Deer Central Alberta Dairy Pool, said, "Well, I don't know anyone who has a bigger stake in it than we have." Others concurred. When I set out to visit the creameries to get their support, I ran into a blizzard. I managed to get from south of Rimbey back to the office and, as time was running out, I made all the arrangements by telephone. I still found I couldn't reach all the farmers this way so permission was given by the Alberta Wheat Pool to have their elevator agents handle seed where there was no creamery. And, where that coudn't be arranged, co-op stores got into the act. The speed with which the scheme was put into operation was amazing. I phoned Bob English, who was in charge of seed supplies, and he gave an instant green light. Even with farmers paying full price, distribution greatly exceeded that of the subsidized scheme of the previous years.

In the fall of 1945, I was transferred to the field crops branch as supervisor of crop improvement. Here I was able to extend the forage seed distribution plan to all district agriculturist offices. The sale of seed exceeded all expectations as D.A.'s were able to promote forage more effectively with seed available and at reasonable prices.

In succeeding years, the seed trade recognized there was a large market for forage seed in Alberta and wanted to get in on it. The Department of Agriculture, under the leadership of Honorable Dave Ure, minister of agriculture, agreed to withdraw from any area where the trade was prepared to handle the business, and it was not long before the seed trade was handling it all.

I had many satisfying experiences as an employee for 32 years of Alberta Agriculture, and my forage seed experience was by no means the least of them.

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Forage Seed Production (cont'd)

About the Author:

Mr. Birdsall was appointed principal of Olds College in 1952 where he remained until he retired in 1972. Subsequently he authored two books: "The Sixth Decade at the Alberta Agricultural Colleges 1964 - 74", and "Six Years of Service", a brief history of the Olds College alumni association.

Editor's Note:

1980 marks the diamond jubilee of Alberta Agriculture's first full-time district agriculturist appointment. The above article is one in a series being carried in Agri-News to commemorate the 60th anniversary.

- 30 -

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April 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRODUCING HIGH QUALITY TRITICALE

Interest in growing triticale has greatly increased this year because of the tight quota grain situation and an expansion in the triticale market for 1980.

Blair Roth, special crops specialist with Alberta Agriculture, says that as much as 23,000 acres of triticale could be grown under contract this year with Alberta Pioneer Grain and Western International Grain. Since the contracted crops will be used for flour, some control over quality is necessary. The contracting companies have developed their own grading system because the Canadian Grain Commissioner does not have one for triticale.

According to Mr. Roth, the first major quality consideration is not to plant triticale on barley stubble because it is very difficult, if not impossible, to separate the two. When used for flour, triticale is not allowed to contain more than one per cent of volunteer cereals, other than wheat, if it is to make the Pioneer No.1 grade. However, a sample can contain 3 per cent volunteer wheat without the crop being put into the Pioneer No.2 grade.

The second quality consideration concerns ergot, which can be a serious problem in triticale. Mr. Roth points out that the grading system now in use allows only 4 kernels of ergot per 500 grams of triticale for the crop to quality for the Pioneer No.1 grade. He says the ergot problem should be kept in mind when deciding where to plant triticale.

Avoid planting it near a headland or roadside which contains grasses that are susceptible to ergot unless they are mown to prevent ergot bodies from forming. Also, avoid sowing triticale on rye stubble for the same reason.

Mr. Roth reports that a new triticale variety called "Welsh" is less susceptible to ergot than some of the older varieties. In fact, he says "Welsh" is usually no more susceptible to ergot than is common wheat.

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Producing High Quality Triticale (cont'd)

He also says if triticale seed that is known to contain ergot bodies is stored for two years, the viability of the ergot will be reduced to almost zero.

The third quality consideration entails using care when harvesting the crop to keep the number of cracked kernels as low as possible. A maximum of 4 per cent cracked kernels is all that is allowed if the crop is to qualify for a Pioneer No.1 grade.

- 30 -

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April 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FERTILIZING GRASSES FOR FORAGE PRODUCTION

by Ken J. Lopetinsky
Forage and Special Crops Specialist, Alberta Agriculture, Barrhead

Responses to the fertilization of grasses for pasture and hay are highest when adequate soil moisture is present, good weed control is practised and the supply of nutrients (especially nitrogen) is in the correct balance. A soil test, properly taken and interpreted, is the best way of achieving a correct nutrient balance.

Unlike legumes, grasses require a relatively high level of nitrogen fertilizer to ensure proper yields. However, fertility programs can vary dramatically when the species, mixture, age, vigor, intended use and expected yield of forage stands are taken into consideration.

Although the use of fertilizers on grasses in the brown soil zone is not generally recommended because of limited moisture, some response may occur on relatively pure stands in a favorable year.

For other parts of the province, the annual amount of nitrogen that is generally recommended varies from 40 to 100 lb per acre. Under irrigation conditions the recommended rate may be as high as 150 lb per acre.

A late fall or early spring application usually gives the best yield response when a moderate rate of nitrogen is used. However, in the case of high rates, a split application of 50 — 100 lb of nitrogen per acre in the early spring, followed by 50 lb in mid-June and again in mid-July has shown good results, especially for intensive pasture production under irrigation.

On the other hand, when high rates of nitrogen are used in areas of lower than normal rainfall, such as the dark brown soil zone, residual yield responses may occur over two

- (cont'd) -

Fertilizing Grasses For Forage Production (cont'd)

or three years, especially if the soil is dry and production was low during the year of application.

For annual phosphorus fertilization, the general recommendation for the province is 10 – 50 lb of phosphate per acre with the lower rates being recommended for the drier areas.

Sulphur fertilization of grasses is usually recommended only on greywooded soils where rates of up to 10 lb may be required. However, sulphur deficiencies can occur on fields fertilized with high rates of nitrogen.

There is little evidence to date to support general potassium fertilization of grasses. Individual soil tests, especially on peat soils, may show the need for a small amount (up to 30 lb) of potassium.

When assessing the fertilizer requirements of grass and legume mixtures, the amount of legume in the stand determines the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus required. Mixed stands containing less than 20 per cent of legumes can be treated in a similar way to pure grass stands. However, when the percentage of legumes reaches the 20 – 60 per cent range, care must be taken to adjust the nitrogen requirements downwards from the amount that would normally be applied to a grass stand. Similarly, if the percentage of legumes in the stand is in the 20 – 60 per cent range, a higher rate of phosphate must be applied than that normally used on a grass stand to ensure a good legume yield and hardiness. When the percentage of legumes accounts for more than 60 per cent of the mixture, it should be treated in the same way as a pure legume stand. This means using a higher level of phosphorus and a lower level of nitrogen.

- 30 -

Alberta
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April 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FERTILIZATION OF LEGUME CROPS IN ALBERTA

by Ken J. Lopetinsky
Forage & Special Crops Specialist
Alberta Agriculture, Barrhead

When calculating fertilizer requirements and setting up a fertilizer program for legume crops, you should first identify the nutrients that are needed, the extent of the deficiencies, the expected crop response to the added fertilizer and the anticipated economic returns from the fertilizer application.

In general, phosphorus is the most commonly occurring deficiency throughout Alberta, and good yield increases will be obtained when the deficiency is corrected. Sulphur and potassium are second in importance only because these deficiencies are less common. Both sulphur and potassium deficiencies occur most frequently in the northern part of the province where the grey-wooded soils are most prevalent. The brown and black soils rarely show a low level of these nutrients.

Properly inoculated legumes provide most of the nitrogen they require, and the addition of fertilizer nitrogen, especially to perennial legumes like alfalfa, has been shown to be uneconomical. In fact, negative returns have been obtained from alfalfa stands which have a high nitrogen fixation. When a nurse crop is used during the establishment year of the stand, an application rate of up to 40 lb of nitrogen per acre is not detrimental to proper nodulation and subsequent legume nitrogen fixation.

Under irrigation conditions, rates of 10 – 50 lb of nitrogen and 50 – 80 lb of phosphate may be applied to legumes. The higher nitrogen rates (i.e. 50 lb) are recommended for annual legumes only.

For the dark brown soil zone, including Lethbridge and Drumheller, general dry-

- (cont'd) -

Fertilization Of Legume Crops In Alberta (cont'd)

land recommendations include the addition of 10 lb of nitrogen and up to 30 lb of phosphate per acre.

For the thin black, black and grey-wooded soils, 10 lb of nitrogen and up to 50 lb of phosphate per acre may be applied. Since the grey-wooded soils area usually has a low level of sulphur, up to 20 lb of sulphur may be recommended to correct deficiencies.

Solonetzic soils, which occur throughout the brown, black and grey-wooded soil zones of Alberta, usually show a much more variable response to fertilizers than the normal soil in the area. A general recommendation is that applications should be slightly reduced (80% of the rate used on normal soil in the area) unless it has been established that a particular field will respond to a higher rate.

Although a potassium fertilizer is not generally required, rates of up to 30 lb of potash per acre produce some yield increase in those areas where deficiencies do occur.

Research is presently being conducted on large single applications of phosphate fertilizers (e.g. 100 lb of phosphate per acre) on perennial legumes such as alfalfa. To date they seem to give better results than smaller, annual applications, especially on fine textured ("heavy") soils.

Because of the large variation in general recommendations, proper soil testing and the correct interpretation of results is essential when setting up an economically feasible fertilizer program.

- 30 -

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April 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTROLLING RAPE DISEASES

Since most rape diseases either infect the seed or are carried with the seed, the seed should be treated with a recommended fungicide.

Dr. Jack Horricks, plant pathologist with Alberta Agriculture, says fungicides that contain benomyl or carbathiin are systemic and will control black leg on seed but will not control the disease if the crop residue is infected. The virulent strain of black leg is now present in most of Saskatchewan, but has not yet been found in Manitoba or Alberta. Since it is a seed-borne disease, Dr. Horricks advices checking your seed source. Saskatchewan's seed certificate numbers start with a five which is followed by four more numbers. That province's 1979 crop certificate number was 7985 plus seven more numbers.

The following fungicide-insecticide mixtures will control black leg on rape seed. Benolin R; Gammasan Plus; Thiralin Plus; Vitavax RS and Vitavax RS Flowable. Most companies do not recommend treating rape seed with a fungicide-insecticide mixture more than six months before it is to be planted. Vitavax RS Flowable should not be applied more than three months before the seed is to be planted. Dr. Horricks says it is very important to have a germination test done before you buy seed that has been treated. This is particularly important if the time of treatment is not known.

The seed treatment product that you use on your rape seed should also contain lindane to control flea beetles. An Alberta Agriculture publication entitled "Seed Treatment of Cereal and Oilseed Crops - 1980" lists the products that are available for treating rape seed.

Dr. Horricks believes that crop rotation is the best way of controlling rape diseases. He says "The advantage of crop rotation is that the natural microflora of the soil will destroy the disease-causing organisms." Fields should not be planted to rape or other crops that are

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Controlling Rape Diseases (cont'd)

susceptible to the same diseases for two to four years, depending upon the previous incidence of disease, and they should be kept free of all weeds that are susceptible to rape diseases. Cereal crops can be used in a rotation because they are not susceptible to rape diseases.

The most important factor in establishing a good stand of rape is seeding depth. Dr. Horricks recommends planting rape at a depth of about one inch into a firm seed bed. Rape seedlings that do not become well established, and which suffer from severe blight, have invariably been sown to deeply, have been sown in soil that is too loose or have been sown too deeply into a loose soil. Since rape is a small-seeded crop, it should be planted, not buried, and the soil should be packed around the seed to preserve the moisture which is needed for germination.

- 30 -

Phone (403) 427-2127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Communications Division

April 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PASTURE RENTAL RATES

What is a fair pasture rental rate? As market and pasture conditions tend to vary from one year to another, so will rental rates tend to vary. The "going" rental rate may serve as a guide, but it is only when each party's individual costs are known and understood that a fair pasture lease agreement can be negotiated.

Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch at Olds has recently prepared a "Decision Kit" that is designed to enable each party to a lease agreement to estimate his costs and returns. A tenant's costs may include things like supplementary feeds, veterinary expenses and drugs, trucking and marketing, repairs and maintenance, pasture renovations and maintenance, labor, death losses, investment costs and pasture preparation. A landlord's costs could include such things as land investment, depreciation on improvements, taxes, labor, repairs maintenance and pasture renovation.

How much the landlord should charge and how much the tenant should pay can be determined by using the detailed worksheets in the kit to calculate the costs incurred by each. The purpose of the exercise is to find out how much a tenant can afford to pay and still make a reasonable profit, and how much a landlord should charge to earn a reasonable return on his investment. The kit contains worksheets for both cow-calf operations and feeder cattle.

It also outlines various types of leases and their advantages and disadvantages, and describes what considerations should be outlined in an agreement. These could include the length of the pasture season, a legal description of the area and the acres involved, the amount of payments and how they should be made, responsibilities and compensation for improvements, the right of entry, arbitration procedures, grazing restrictions, etc.

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Pasture Rental Rates (cont'd)

"The object of a formal lease agreement", says Andy Birch, district agriculturist at Stettler, "should be to clarify the responsibilities and obligations of each party and to ensure that each is protected under its terms. For this reason it is advisable to consult a lawyer when drawing up such an agreement."

The "Decision Kit" can be obtained from the Farm Business Management Branch, Bag Service No.2000, Olds, TOM 1PO.

- 30 -

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April 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALBERTA NURSERY TRADES ASSOCIATION SELECTS ANNIVERSARY TREES

The Alberta Nursery Trades Association has selected the Shubert Chokecherry and the Red Osier Dogwood as their official tree and shrub to commemorate Alberta's 75th anniversary.

Both make excellent ornamentals. The chokecherry is ideal for providing an accent in a landscape garden, while the dogwood is particularly useful for shaded areas. They are especially suited to the climate in central Alberta, but both grow well in most other areas of the province.

The Shubert Chokecherry is a small, upright tree that reaches an approximate height of 15 feet. While its leaves are green during the early part of the growing season, they gradually turn purple. In early July, they are all a deep purple and remain that color until the fall.

The Red Osier Dogwood grows to a height of about seven feet. It is a broad, oval-shaped shrub that has branches that arch upwards. The clusters of small white flowers which form white berries in the fall add considerably to this shrub's ornamental value.

The Shubert Chokecherry and the Red Osier Dogwood will be found in abundance this spring at tree nurseries and garden centres throughout Alberta.

- 30 -

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April 28, 1980

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SPRING EVALUATION OF THE HERD SIRE

Bulls, often neglected during the winter, need to be thoroughly evaluated for breeding soundness each spring, says Rob Hand, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock supervisor at Barrhead.

Such an evaluation should start with a check of the animal's physical appearance, which includes his coat and general condition. If he has lost hair from rubbing, he probably has lice. Although it may be a little late in the season to do much about lice, an animal that is heavily infested will benefit from treatment now. Also, a good dose of vitamin A will help to neutralize the effects of the lice.

Determining a bull's condition is difficult. Weight alone is not enough to go by because it will depend upon the animal's frame, and this can vary widely, especially when bulls from different breeds are being used. A bull that is in good condition should probably be half way between the excess finish that is usually carried by bulls purchased at a traditional two-year old bull sale and the slightly undercondition that is characteristic of bulls at the end of the intense portion of the breeding season. Bulls that are out of condition do not usually show the libido or have the quality of semen that they are capable of having when they are in optimum condition.

Although rations will vary according to the feed that is available and the size of bull being fed, a good general rule for a Hereford-sized bull is 25 pounds of grass-alfalfa hay and 5 pounds of grain. The ration can be increased or decreased, depending upon desired condition. The animal should also have access to a 1:1 calcium-phosphorous mineral mix.

Because a bull must be able to travel, it is very important to check his hooves. If they need trimming, have them done well ahead of the breeding season. Also check for cracks

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Spring Evaluation Of The Herd Sire (cont'd)

in the hooves because they can be channels for infection and eventual footrot. Cracks can usually be eliminated during the trimming process. It is normal for an older bull to have a thickening of the skin between the cloven portions of its hooves and to develop a callus-like growth in these areas, but if the growth is over an inch long or seems to be causing discomfort, it should be removed.

"The final things to check" says Mr. Hand, "are breeding soundness and semen quality." A bull that was sound last year will probably be sound again this year, but you cannot afford to take a chance. Ask your veterinarian to check to make sure his penis is not broken, that his scrotum was not frozen and that his libido is normal. Anyone who realizes that he would have a revenue loss of $1,800 from 30 cows that were bred a month late and whose calves gain two pounds per day at a $1 per pound will quickly realize that he cannot afford to take a chance on his bull's breeding ability.

- 30 -

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAD OF FIELD CROP RESEARCH APPOINTED

Douglas A. Cooper, head of Alberta Agriculture's field crops branch, has announced the appointment of Dr. James H. Helm to the position of head of field crops research.

Dr. Helm will be responsible for planning, developing, supervising, implementing and evaluating field crop research programs as well as for co-ordinating those that are funded by Alberta Agriculture.

Raised on a dairy and hay farm in Washington, U.S.A., he obtained his B.Sc. (agriculture) from Washington State University in 1967 and his M.Sc. (plant breeding) the following year. He graduated from Oregon State University in 1971 with a Ph.D.

From 1963 to 1968 Dr. Helm worked as a research technician for the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington State University on a wheat breeding project. He also worked with the department of agronomy at Washington State University as a teaching assistant.

In 1968 he spent three months with the U.S. Agency for International Development as a consultant on a cereal research program in Afghanistan. He spent the next three years at Oregon State University as an assistant in crop science where he worked on barley breeding and genetics.

In 1971 Dr. Helm came to Canada and settled in Ontario where he was employed as a plant breeder and project director by Maple Leaf Mills, Ltd. He worked with cereals and forage legumes. In 1973 he accepted a position with Alberta Agriculture as a plant breeder and project co-ordinator for a feed grain breeding program being carried out at the University of Alberta and later at Lacombe. Dr. Helm retained that position until his present appointment.

- 30 -

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MARKETING ECONOMIST FOR GRAINS AND OILSEEDS APPOINTED

Les Lyster has joined Alberta Agriculture's market analysis branch as marketing economist responsible for grains and oilseeds. His appointment was announced by David Walker, head of the market analysis branch.

Mr. Lyster will provide situation and outlook material on grains and oilseeds which will be distributed via meetings, the media and publications.

Raised in the Stettler area, Mr. Lyster graduated from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. (agricultural economics) in 1970. He obtained a M.Sc. in (agricultural economics) in 1978.



Les Lyster

He has held several positions with Alberta Agriculture during the past 10 years, including regional farm management specialist and regional farm economist at Airdrie.

- 30 -

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DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED FOR FALHER

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of Therese Beaudoin to the position of home economist at Falher.

Ms. Beaudoin spent the first 12 years of her life on a mixed farm in the St. Paul area. Her parents then moved to a farm near Bonnyville. After marrying and raising eleven children, Ms. Beaudoin enrolled at the University of Alberta in home economics. She graduated in 1978 with a B. Sc. (home economics), having specialized in family studies.

Following graduation she completed a practicum placement in Canada manpower's immigration division where her duties included counselling newly arrived immigrants. This involved helping them with social, emotional, psychological and consumer problems as well as helping them to find employment. She also conducted short training sessions at the Alberta Vocational Center and did research interviewing.

In 1979 Ms. Beaudoin worked for Alberta Social Services on the Employment Opportunities Program. Later that year she worked at Hilltop House in Edmonton, which is a rehabilitation centre for women with problems. Here her duties included rehabilitation counselling and supervising and helping to prepare meals.

- 30 -

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DISTRICT HOME ECONOMIST APPOINTED

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of Joanne Molesky to the position of district home economist at Three Hills.

Ms. Molesky will provide professional counselling in the area of home economics and work with other members of the extension office in providing services to the rural population of the Three Hills district.

Ms. Molesky was born in Calgary and grew up in Red Deer. She obtained her B.Sc. (home economics) from the University of Alberta in 1978, having majored in foods and nutrition. She obtained a diploma in general dietetics from the Calgary General Hospital in 1979.

While at university, Ms. Molesky worked part-time as an assistant in the university's foods and nutrition laboratory and as a part-time dietary aid at the Red Deer Regional Hospital, where she also worked as summer relief in 1973, 1974 and 1976.

- 30 -

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